

Assessment of the Cerebrally Palsied Child for Education
SOCIETY'S NEW BOOK
Edited by the Director
James Loring
Available from the
Publications Dept.—Price 15/-

SPASTICS NEWS

JULY, 1968 Vol. XIV, No. 7

PUBLISHED BY THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

NEW SERIES PRICE 6d.

WANTED
Used English
Commemorative Postage Stamps
Price list and full details by
return from:—
W. SPARKS, P.J.S.,
28 Greenway Road,
Taunton, Somerset.

Home will be the first in Cornwall

CORNWALL'S FIRST residential home for adult spastics will be officially opened in Camborne on Thursday, July 25.

The new centre, which provides a home life for 24 disabled men and women, is a Georgian mansion set amid several acres. It was originally known as Rosewarne, and was the home of the Holman family for 50 years. But in 1965 it was given to The Spastics Society by Mr. J. F. Holman, chairman of the Camborne firm of Holman Bros. Ltd., and re-named Gladys Holman House in memory of his mother. Her eldest daughter, Mrs. B. L. Campbell, will perform the official opening.

"FAMILY HOME"

The ceremony will begin at 3.10 p.m. with an address of welcome by Mr. P. W. Varcoe, chairman of the Cornish Spastics Society. Mrs. Campbell will then declare the home officially open and will be thanked by Mr. J. A. Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, seconded by Mr. J. O. Dellar, Warden of the Gladys Holman House.

The aim of the centre is to provide the life of a comfortable family home together with opportunities for light industrial work and occupational activities. A workshop is therefore an important feature of the extension conversions carried out on the house by The Spastics Society.

The first residents moved in last September, priority being given to those from Cornwall and the West Country.



Pictured outside the Law Courts after the hearing are Mr. James Loring and Mr. Douglas Arber.

SOUTHAMPTON'S WORK WILL GO AFLOAT—PRESTIGE ORDER FOR NEW 'QUEEN'

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT for the new British super-liner Queen Elizabeth 2 is being produced at one of the Spastics Society's local group work centres.

When the giant liner makes her maiden voyage early next year she will carry several thousand specially-shaped coathangers made at the Southampton Adult Work Centre. There is also a possibility that she may contain other equipment made by skilled spastic workers, and a statement concerning this is expected shortly.

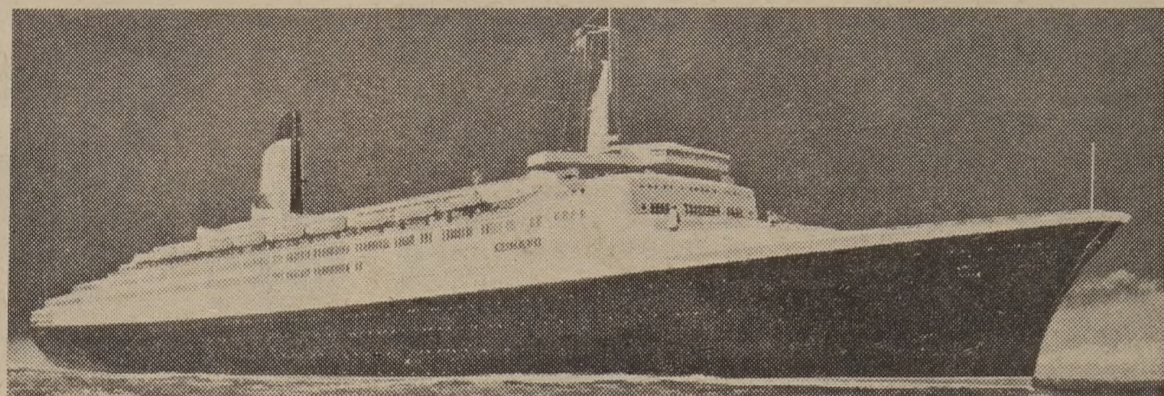
The Southampton Work Centre is run by Southampton and District Spastics Association, and four of the workers there have produced 6,000 coathangers for Cunard in only two weeks. This prestige order is now packed and awaiting despatch to Clydeside.

Queen Elizabeth 2 was launched by the Queen last September. Since then, following constructive suggestions from disabled business executive, changes have been made in the design that are believed to make the new 58,000 ton liner the first in the world to have special facilities for the disabled.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Several cabins have been adapted to accommodate passengers in wheelchairs. The special features include extra-wide doorways, more space in toilets and bathrooms and, where possible, the elimination of steps and sills.

Said a Cunard spokesman: "These were points we had not considered originally, and we are glad that the special problems of the disabled traveller were brought to our notice."



An artist's impression of the giant Queen Elizabeth 2. When complete she will have special facilities on board for handicapped people—the first liner to be so equipped.

ROUND TWO OF POOLS CASE — WHAT NOW?

THE LONG-AWAITED verdict on the case of The Commissioners of Customs & Excise v. Top Ten Promotions Ltd., was given on Monday, May 27. And each of the three judges saw the matter differently. To sum up: Top Ten won part of their appeal on a majority verdict.

But both sides obtained permission to appeal to The House of Lords, where they would have to face five judges. Notice of an intention to appeal would have to be lodged before the end of August, but at the time of writing neither side has indicated what it intends to do.

The case originally was to decide whether betting duty should be paid on the weekly subscriptions less the charity donations of Spastic League Club members. Betting duty on the stake money is already paid by Top Ten Promotions.

On judgment day we waited anxiously in the Court of Appeal, knowing what the verdict was going to mean to The Spastics Society, other charities and our friends from Bristol.

Suddenly the chatting ceased, the judges entered—Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Diplock and Lord Justice Sachs.

First to deliver judgment was Lord Denning, who, in forcible terms, turned down Top Ten's appeal completely. In his considered opinion, all the activities were subject to betting duty. This was a shattering blow.

And then came Lord Justice Diplock, who did nothing to revive our hopes when he said he agreed with the Master of the Rolls that R.P.P.'s expenses and profits for the three weeks when they collected club subscriptions, should be brought into the computation of the tax.

But, he went on, and here we began to rally, he disagreed with Lord Denning that the expenses which include distributions, such bonus gifts, profits of Regional Club Organisation and the club should be brought in. He raised our spirits still further when he said that on this point, he agreed with Lord Justice Sachs, whose judgment, of course, we had not yet heard.

Lord Justice Sachs took over and said he would allow the appeal and he would refuse the declaration sought by the Commissioners.

So how do we stand on this divided judgment?

We talked to Mr. Douglas Arter, Managing Director of

Top Ten Promotions, who told us that if neither side takes the matter further of the £9 million set aside since 1964 against the possible outcome of the case. Just over £3 million would be due to the Customs and Excise and nearly £6 million retained for repayment of charity donations and for benefits to members. The charity figure would amount to about £1,750,000.

Many British charities have been benefiting from donations from members through the club for some years. To date more than £18,750,000 has been donated; The Spastics Society is the largest single recipient, drawing nearly half its annual income from this source. In addition to the Spastics Society, over 1,000 other good causes have received grants through the Sembal Trust and others. They cover a wide range of handicaps, illnesses, homes, schools and social services in various parts of the country.

Mr. James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society, says: "It is an unexpectedly complicated verdict, and to some extent, it must be an immediate disappointment to the Society. Our concern is that about £800,000 income withheld from us over the past four years must necessarily be held in abeyance until the remaining legal problems are solved. This is money urgently required for new schools and centres for some of the most heavily handicapped spastic men, women and children on our waiting lists for whom there are at present no facilities available for care and treatment. As far as we are concerned, the suspense continues and we can only wait and hope."

SCCS CHIEF AWARDED MBE

SPASTICS NEWS extends special congratulations to Mr. Charles Laird, who has been made an MBE in recognition of his services as chairman of the executive committee of the Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics.

Mr. Laird was formerly a director of E. Chalmers & Co. Ltd., of Leith.

New Centre for Crewe

A NEW RESIDENTIAL centre for six spastics is to be built in Richmond Road, Crewe. It will cost more than £10,000, and the Crewe and District Spastics Society hope that it will be completed by next year.

The centre will be built on the site at present occupied by the Society's work centre, and a new workroom will be built adjoining the residential building.

The Crewe Society also has a new ambulance. It has cost nearly £3,000, will seat 20 passengers, and will go into operation next month.

PRINCESS MARINA'S GIFT
The Society is proud to announce that H.R.H. Princess Marina, the Duchess of Kent, has made a generous donation to the Society's funds.

New postal code

WE HAVE BEEN advised that the Postcode WIN 4EQ should be used on all correspondence addressed to the Society at 12, Park Crescent.

In future, the Society's full address will be as follows:—
THE SPASTICS SOCIETY,
12, Park Crescent,
London, W.1.
WIN 4EQ.

Tony's Bingo raises £1,000

SPASTIC MR. TONY ELLIS of Broad Lane, Tiverton, has raised £1,000 in two years—to help other spastics.

He has done it by running a Bingo Club in the local Memorial Hall, and now has over 200 people attending every Monday evening.

Tony's father acts as caller, and his mother is on the door.

Tony, a 32-year-old engineer, gives all the Club proceeds to the Exeter and District Spastics Society.

Relax in a Radox bath

After a hard day relax in a Radox bath.

Have the water just comfortably hot. Slide right down in the bath. Linger in it for at least 10 minutes. Fatigue and tension just float away in warm water made soothing and fragrant by Radox. It's a comfort to both tired mind and weary body. Your skin is left smooth, soft and refreshed. Soap lathers better. Hardwater scum and 'high tide marks' are eliminated. A quick rinse with plain water and the bath is left clean and inviting. Then, off to bed: relaxed in body and mind. You'll sleep better and wake refreshed.

Radox makes a bath special.



A NICHOLAS PRODUCT, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS.

Spastics News
Published monthly by
The Spastics Society
Editorial Office
12 Park Crescent
London, W.1.
Tel. 01-636 5020
Advertising Office
2 Helmet Court
Wormwood Street,
London, E.C.2.
Tel: 01-588 5316

WHO'LL BE THE BEST- DRESSED DANDY?

ONE OF THE SOCIAL highlights of Greater London Spastics Week is the Dandy Ball at the Dorchester Hotel on Friday, July 19. Organised by the Right Now Committee this is, we hope, destined to become a regular part of the swinging London scene.

As well as a ballroom dancing band, there will be a 'pop' group, The Breed, and the world-famous Cambridge "Footlights" revue will provide the midnight cabaret. And there will be a mystery guest of honour to judge a competition for the best-dressed dandy.

The evening's entertainment will also include tombola and raffle with star prizes. All this and a three-course dinner make the event a bargain at 3 gns. a ticket.

Book now to make sure of a place at this first-ever Dandy Ball. Tickets are available from Margaret Kilburn, Accounts Department, 12 Park Crescent.

The Dandy Ball is one of the events being arranged by the Right Now Committee of young Londoners recently formed to assist the Society. They are also working hard to organise two charity marches during Greater London Spastics Week and a novel barbecue is scheduled for later in the summer.

Lincoln's Puffing Billies

FOURTEEN THOUSAND people are expected at the Traction Engine and Organ Rally being organised by Lincoln and District Spastics Society at Caenby Corner on August 17 and 18.

One of the most honoured guests will be shipped from Holland specially for the occasion. She is "White Ruth", an 80-key fairground organ built 64 years ago in Germany and now owned by a Dutch showman.

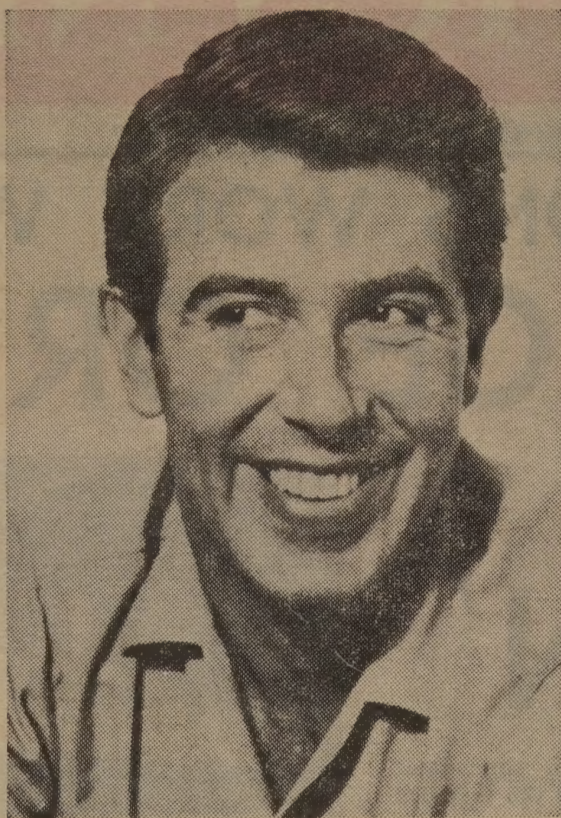
Other items at the rally will include 30 steam-driven traction engines, an old-time steam fair section, and the only remaining set of steam yachts in the country.

All the proceeds will go to the residential centre for spastics in Scunthorpe.

ONE GROUP of people who will be particularly busy during Greater London Spastics Week are members of the Stars Organisation for Spastics. They have been devoting a great deal of time and energy recently to planning three major events — a Cricket Match, a Cocktail Party and a giant Bring and Buy Sale.

The Cricket Match takes place at the New Zealand Sports and Social Club ground, Aorangi Park, Church Road, Wimbledon. Organised in conjunction with the South-West London Group and sponsored

COURTING SUPPORT



Leslie Crowther is certainly the right person to be captaining the Stars Organisation for Spastics cricket team who will be meeting a combined Australian XI during Greater London Spastics Week. For Leslie is currently Chairman of S.O.S. and his heart is very deeply involved with helping spastics in any way possible.

"I wish the week every success," he told Spastics News. "Every 'week' that is being held in different parts of the country this year is the result of many weeks' hard work by a great band of helpers. Please don't let them down and give them every single bit of support you can."

THE STARS WILL BE OUT IN FORCE FOR THE START

by the Wimbledon Rotary Club it will ensure a star-studded send-off for the week.

Test stars

The S.O.S. team, captained by Leslie Crowther, will meet a combined Australia House/Aorangi XI with guest star Arthur Morris, former Australian test star. As well as Leslie Crowther, the stars' team will be chosen from Brian Rix, Simon Dee, David Jacobs, Cardew Robinson, Don Moss, George Moon, John Slater, Ron Goodwin, Inia Te Wiata, Nicholas Parsons, John Justin, Pierre Picton, Derek Dunnet and former West Indian test star Conrad Hunte to ensure runs as well as laughs.

Other S.O.S. members will be on hand to sign autographs, sell raffle tickets and man side-shows. The match starts at 2.30 p.m. on 14th July, and Spastics

News readers wishing to attend should note that the ground is next to the All-England Club and there are ample car parking facilities.

Lady members of the S.O.S. come into their own with a Cocktail Party and Bring and Buy Sale held on the Monday and Tuesday respectively of Spastics Week. The Cocktail Party, held at New Zealand House, Haymarket, has been generously provided by Martini & Rossi Ltd. and entrance is by invitation only. S.O.S. members are taking the opportunity of inviting other well-known personalities from show business, sport and other public spheres to learn about their work and to bring with them gifts for the Bring and Buy Sale.

The Sale itself, from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 16th, represents an opportunity for all Spastics News readers in the area to meet the stars and take part in one of the biggest Bring & Buy Sales of its kind. The venue is the Prince of Wales Theatre, Leicester Square, by kind permission of Mr. Bernard Delfont. Admission is 3/6d., plus a gift for the sale. And, of course, S.O.S. members will be taking part in other events during Greater London Spastics Week and will be present at the exhibitions in West-End stores.

Altogether an extremely busy week for our friends in show business and one which should bring ample rewards for spastics.

Arts and crafts on show at stores

PUBLICITY IS AN important aspect of Spastics Week in London this year and one excellent means of presenting ourselves to the general public is by exhibitions. This year three major London stores are generously providing facilities for us — Selfridges, Bourne & Hollingsworth and William Whiteley.

Paintings

At Selfridges the accent will be on art and paintings by spastics at many of our schools and centres will be on sale. There will also be an information desk and photographs of all aspects of the Society's work. The exhibition is on the fourth floor and opens on Monday, July 14th.

The exhibitions at Bourne & Hollingsworth in Oxford Street and William Whiteley's in Queensway will include photographs, handicrafts, jewellery, cards and literature. Each store is making 800 sq. ft. of space available for us and this will be filled with exhibits representing the wide range of services provided for spastics. The Bourne & Hollingsworth exhibition will be open on Monday, while that at Whiteleys will start on Tuesday but will open all day Saturday, July 20th.

Film shows

Another attraction for West-End shoppers during Spastics Week will be a series of film shows at the New Gallery Cinema, Regent Street. Here a 40-minute programme will be shown at lunch-time, and on Thursday evening a special selection of films about spastics will be shown. This programme is timed for 8.0 p.m. specially to attract late night shoppers.

And at all these events, as well as those run by local groups, the special London Spastics Week booklet will be available.

RIGHT NOW!

SUPPORT LONDON SPASTICS WEEK —

14th—20th JULY

Souvenir Pendants — "Time to Help Spastics" — produced by The Homework Section from an idea suggested by the "Right Now" Young People's Committee.

Antique Silver finish with Blue Enamel
10/- each (including postage)

FROM YOUR LOCAL GROUP — NOW!

or direct from The Homework Section

Please send.....Pendant(s) as advertised in the July issue of "Spastics News."

I enclose cheque/P.O. No.....
(BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE)

Name

Address

To: THE SALES OFFICE, HOMEWORK SECTION,
The Spastics Society, 16 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.
Telephone: 01-387 9571.

Fund-raising in local groups too

The slogan for Greater London Spastics Week is "Time To Help Spastics" and Patron for the Week is the Bishop of London. As well as the central events described elsewhere on this page the seventeen local groups in the Greater London area are planning their own fund-raising schemes.

These include dances, jumble sales, fetes and open days. Among the most unusual are a Barrel organ collection in Croydon, a five-a-side football match in South London, Old Tyme Music Hall at Harrow and a "sale of bricks" at Kingston.

All in all it seems likely that by July 20th almost everyone in London will have heard of Spastics Week. We hope so.

And now Durham plan sponsored swim

THE WEEK before the Spastics Week in Greater London, the groups in Durham county will be organising a Week of their own and they are determined that their efforts will not be overshadowed by events in the South.

From July 6-13 a programme of exciting events has been arranged to cover the entire county. This is a particularly challenging task as only three groups are involved in this northern area. They are based in Sunderland, Durham City and Darlington.

Garden fete

Among the events so far arranged are a Garden Fete at the Sunderland Centre at 2 p.m. on Saturday, 6th July. This will be opened by Lady Steele and will formally launch Durham Spastics Week.

The Sunderland group have also arranged a Fashion Show at the La Strada Club the evening of Monday, 8th July. Sunderland is a town with a very active club life and collections are being made at clubs throughout the week.

Sunderland Centre will be open to the public on three days during the week — Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and this will give visitors an

opportunity to see the various normal activities of the Centre in progress.

The Week will end with a sponsored walk covering 20 miles around the outskirts of Sunderland and it is hoped will involve 400 or 500 young people. An ambitious target of £1,500 has been set for this walk, which will certainly justify the late night timing of this event. Walkers are expected to set off at midnight on Saturday, July 13th!

Another sponsored walk has been arranged by the Durham group on July 7th and they are planning to end their week's activities with a novel event—a sponsored Swim at Stanley Baths. Other events in Durham

City during the week are a Concert in Witton Gilbert and a Dominoes and Darts Competition in the Annfield Plain and Stanley areas.

Handicapped

Darlington have been a little handicapped by recent changes in their committee, but are opening their Centre to the public on the concluding Saturday. And all three groups are concentrating much of their effort during the week on a mammoth "door-knock" campaign throughout the county.

Patron of Durham county Spastic Week is Viscountess the Lord Lampton, M.P. for Berwick-on-Tweed.

THE RECEIVING END

ON THE RECEIVING end of much of the money raised during London Spastics Week will be the new assessment centre in Fitzroy Square, and this will be officially opened during the Week. The ceremony will be performed by well-known T.V.

personality and former S.O.S. Chairman David Jacobs on Friday morning, July 19th.

Money raised by London groups in their own areas will naturally go towards their own local projects.

Chairman — for the tenth year

ALD M. GREEN, the Mayor of Bournemouth, congratulated the Bournemouth, Poole & District group on the "healthy state of their balance sheet," when he chaired their Annual General Meeting.

Few could have foreseen, he went on, the tremendous strides that have been made in the 13 years of their existence.

Mr. J. H. Edwards was unanimously re-elected Chairman for the tenth consecutive year and Mr. H. A. Waterhouse was re-elected Hon. Treasurer. Mr.

GROUPS IN THE NEWS

E. H. Nelson was elected Hon. Secretary when a tribute was paid to the retiring Hon. Sec. Mrs. L. M. Pollard.

The Derby Draw, sponsored by the Parents/Staff Association, raised £75. The Residential Centre Appeal Fund in nine months stood at £1,799, with the Executive Committee contributing £1 for every £1 raised by the Appeal Fund.

Centre grant increased

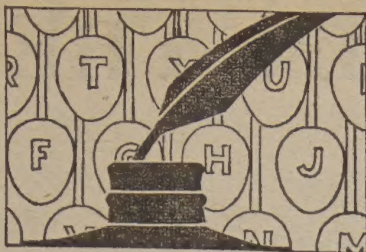
THE NORTH LONDON GROUP at a recent meeting, within the space of about half an hour, increased to £1,000 its annual grant to the Hornsey Centre for handicapped children; made a gift of £100 to Cheyney Walk Holiday Club; made a gift of £100 to the North West London Groups Work Centre.

"A magnificent example of Group co-operation and I would be most grateful if it receives the maximum amount of publicity," said Mr. N. Goldfrap, London (N.) R.O.

Local Council in site search

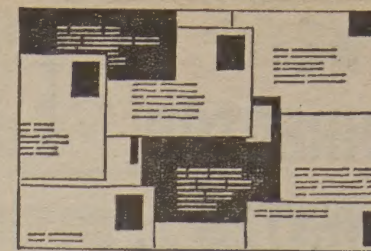
THURROCK AND DISTRICT Spastics Society are hoping to establish a centre locally for the severely handicapped. Help with a suitable site is being sought from the Council.

As an initial step, money raised during Essex Spastics Week will be devoted towards the cost of the project.



YOU write to US

Please address your letters to:
The Editor, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1., and print your address clearly at the end of the letter. There is 10s. 6d. for each letter published sent by a spastic.



DO THE FIGURES PROVE ANYTHING AT ALL?

Dear Editor,

Reading "The Director writes" in the May issue of Spastics News, I was reminded of the story of a high Government official who rushed into the room of his parliamentary private secretary, saying "Get me out some figures." To which the secretary replied quietly, "Yes, sir—what do you want to prove?"

I do not know from what source the Director has obtained his figures that 50 per cent of all sufferers from cerebral palsy have some degree of intellectual impairment, but even if his statement is correct, which is, of course, open to doubt, since figures can be found to prove almost anything, I consider he is doing a grave dis-service to the cause of spastics in a paper which he hopes will be widely read by the general public.

A bit queer

Spastics with normal intelligence have had enough job of convincing people they come in contact with that they are normal, without the Director of the Spastics Society giving support to the idea that at least half of us are a bit queer!

When I was doing work amongst spastics I recall the girl I knew with an arm that was shaking all the time, and a face which became contorted as she struggled to get out words, coming home from shopping in tears because the people in the shops had talked about her being "simple" whilst she was there.

Lies Dormant

It is so much easier to dismiss a spastic child as ineducable, than to take the time and

trouble to fight a way through his other handicaps to the intelligence which lies dormant beneath.

Some parents are even encouraged to send their child, of normal intelligence but physically handicapped, to a school for the mentally handicapped, since it is the only one available! Which is like sending a man with a bad leg to a mental hospital!

Does the Director hope to

gain more public support for his Society by saying, "The people we help are often mentally as well as physically handicapped." If that is the case, I for one, since it cannot be proved I have the disease, shall conveniently forget that I am supposed to have cerebral palsy!

Yours faithfully,
Margaret Mather (Miss),
21 Mulgrave Road, Roe Green,
Worsley, Manchester.

...the Director replies

In the early days of the Society considerable emphasis was placed upon helping those spastics who, with treatment, education and training, could take their place in the world. Little could be done for the educationally sub-normal until the schools at Hawksworth, Ingfield and Irton had been opened. Now, after the opening of Meldreth, we are deeply concerned about the help that can be given to spastics who also have a serious mental handicap.

Most surveys show that approximately half those with cerebral

palsy also have an impairment of intelligence and are either in the educationally sub-normal or severely sub-normal range. The fact is that many spastics are multiply-handicapped, and one of these additional handicaps can be mental handicap. Parents who have a severely sub-normal spastic child to care for have a great burden to bear, and we must do everything we can to help them and to encourage public authorities to help. We can only achieve this latter objective if we give appropriate publicity to the problem.

LET THE OFFICIALS LIVE ON 18 BOB!

Dear Editor,

I've just read your photo-quotes article in this month's issue and I couldn't agree more that the Government should pay and give more help to the disabled.

I feel very strongly about this, especially as they seem to make a distinction between those who are born disabled and those who become disabled later in life.

Had a taste

I know it must be harder for a normal person when anything happens to them, and they have to take to a wheel chair, but at least they've had a taste of normal life and will have been able to make some provision for their later life against accident or illness, whereas a person born disabled hasn't had a chance, and yet the Government gives them both the same disability pension.

I know we're all well looked after at The Society's and Cheshire Homes, but I should like the Government Officials just to try for a few weeks keeping their personal spending for cigarettes, etc. to the 18/- allowed and see how they get on.

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN STILWELL,
"Greathouse," Cheshirehome,
Kingtonlangley, Chippenham,
Wilts.

Feeble attempts to justify unwillingness

Dear Editor,
THE PHOTO-Quotes feature in last month's Spastic News emphasised again what a selfishly apathetic country we've become.

Don't people want to be responsible for ANYTHING any more? The constant whine that "the Government should do it" and the endlessly trotted-out comment—never backed up by facts—that "charities spend too much on running costs," are just

feeble attempts to justify a total unwillingness to face any problems outside one's own tiny circle or to do anything about them.

Helping charity is one of the few ways in which one can still make a positive contribution to human happiness, and if the Government ever takes it over we shall all be the poorer spiritually and, in the long run, financially.

MAY STANDRICK,
Selworthy Road, Bristol.

HUFF AND PUFF — A NEW LIFE!

I DIDN'T HAVE A POSSUM typewriter when I was at school, and as I can only write a bit, I found it extremely hard to keep up with the others in my class. I think that if I had had a POSSUM then I would have got on better than I have.

The first time I saw a POSSUM working was at an exhibition held at the Westminster Central Hall. I attend Warwick Row Day Centre in London and two members of staff took me along to see it being operated to see if I could manage it. We decided that I would benefit by having one, and so on 9th September, 1966, it arrived.

I can remember the first day I tried the typewriter—I was exhausted after ten minutes as I had not been in the habit of sitting and huffing and puffing to myself and therefore was not

in practice. However, after a time I began to get the hang of it.

As you may know a typewriter with a POSSUM attachment is one that can be operated without using individual fingers as with a normal machine—I have a tube in my mouth and select each letter—for instance, if I want to type an "a" I suck while the machine clicks twice and then puff while it clicks twice and then with the next suck an "a" will be printed.

I was asked to go as an exhibit to a careers exhibition at the Kensington Town Hall a short while ago. It lasted for three days and at first I was a bit nervous but I soon settled down and then it was a lot of fun.

The POSSUM has changed

Glasgow, which was organised by The Stars Organisation for Spastics (Scotland).

The Tattoo featured Police Dogs, Motor Cyclists, Frogmen, the world famous Glasgow Police Pipe Band and the Mounted Section included Rufus which, wearing a Rangers Scarf, played "football" before delighted audiences.

Ruislip makes a friend

Dear Editor,
THE ARTICLE on the Ruislip Work Centre made interesting reading last month. I give regularly to the Spastics Society, but I must admit it was encouraging to read of what spastics are able to contribute to the community instead of what they hope the community will give them.

"ENCOURAGED."
London, S.E.14.

Big Pools Winner



After six years of weekly contributions to the Spastic League Football Pool, Mrs. Frances Woodacre, of Lyndhurst Avenue, Intack, Blackburn, won £1,466.

Mrs. Woodacre first joined the competition because her husband was the local pools agent, but she has never won a prize before.

Mrs. Woodacre, who works at

the Royal Ordnance Factory, Blackburn, has put the money into the bank, "Until I decide just what to do with it."

In the picture, Mrs. Woodacre is seen receiving her cheque from Mr. Norman Hayes, the area pools supervisor, while her husband William looks on.

(Photo: Lancashire Evening Telegraph).

THE DIRECTOR WRITES...

FIVE LOCAL GROUPS of the Spastics Society have designated a week during 1968 to be "Spastics Week" in their area and during those seven days a very special effort will be made to present to the public the work of both the local Group and The Spastics Society and to impress upon people the urgent need for funds.

From 14th to 20th July the

Spastics Society in London is organising in conjunction with the Groups in the Greater London Area a London Spastic Week and the Bishop of London has very generously agreed to be its Patron.



New plans

Plans are now being worked out for a National Spastics Week in 1969 and the dates proposed are 29th June to 5th July. I say proposed, because we must watch very closely the "Weeks" which are being organised this year and come to a conclusion about the desirability of a National Spastics Week. A flop on a national scale would be disastrous.

National Spastics Week, if it is held, and I hope that it will be, will be a massive exercise in co-operation between the Spastics Society and the local Groups. The national Society would provide the umbrella of national publicity and the local Groups would organise local activities. Thus if all goes well and with a swing, during one week of next year nearly 200 Spastics Societies will work in unison towards the common goal of presenting our problems to the public and our urgent need for money.

Operations of this magnitude require not only excellent co-operation between all concerned, but also the will and the heart to do the job really

well. As a group of Societies we have not only made an important contribution to the welfare of the handicapped, but we have written a chapter in the history of voluntary social service. However, despite all our efforts much of what we have achieved and the important work which we are now undertaking is not fully understood or appreciated by the general public.

Now during the course of the next fifteen months, is an opportunity to re-capture the public imagination. Like all important campaigns it will entail additional work for us all and the burden will fall very heavily upon voluntary workers, many of whom are already over-burdened.

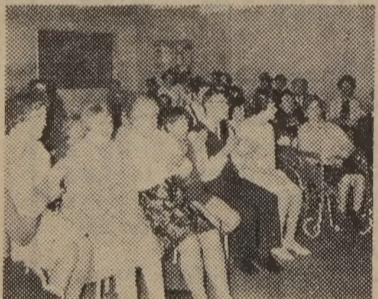
In the meantime let us all make a special effort to work together and avoid unnecessary controversy. We cannot present a united Society to the public if we ourselves are not truly united on all the important issues.

From SPASTICS NEWS — Ten Years Ago

THE FIRST OXFORD Conference was "Anything but a lost cause," according to Dr. John Kershaw, M.D. B.S. D.Ph., reporting on the 1958 International Study Group on Child Neurology and Cerebral Palsy. This was attended by nearly seventy doctors and scientists from eight European countries and produced much useful pooling of ideas.

SIXTY ENJOYED THE ANNUAL 'DO'

THE ANNUAL PARTY organised by the Coventry Group was held on 25th April at the Enterprise Club, Coventry. It was attended by about sixty spastics from "Penderels" Resi-



Our picture shows some of the happy guests at the party.

dential Home and the surrounding district. Those present enjoyed a meal and a hilarious social evening with

A new unit — Durham's great aim

FOLLOWING HIS OPENING of Durham and District Spastics' Spring Fayre in the Town Hall, Durham recently, Mr. Freddy Davies, the comedian, said that in Blackpool they were endeavouring to provide a holiday home for mentally handicapped children.

He knew the great task lying ahead of the Durham Spastics' Committee, who are hoping to build a residential unit for spastics in Durham.

He amused the audience with his assertion that although he was appearing in Newcastle and Stockton nightclubs that week, he was very pleased they had come to see him in Durham!

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE A BIG HIT

DURING THE RECENT house-to-house appeal in aid of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society, £912 was collected in the Ipswich area.

The Chairman of the appeal committee, Mrs. A. E. Devine, said this had been the most successful appeal so far. She thanked those who had made contributions, including those who gave trading stamps for the mini-bus campaign and all the collectors.

RIDING IN THE MEWS



Spastic Children from Queen Mary's Hospital and St. Thomas's Hospital taking riding lessons in Buckingham Palace Mews—a facility offered by the Queen after she heard that there was no safe place in Central London for the children to enjoy this form of therapy. The ponies have been provided by a riding school and Lady Fitzalan-Howard is helping with the coaching.

(Photo: Sunday Telegraph).

Youth and Service at W. Midlands

THE 4th ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the West Midlands Region was held at Meadow Works, Birmingham. Saturday, 11th May, 1968.

There was an attendance of 110 from the 10 Groups in the Region and the Local Authorities.

The theme of the Conference was "Youth & Service" and the Chairman was Mr. Norman Goodchild, President of Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society.

We were fortunate in having as speakers Miss Jane Markham, Organising Officer of Birmingham Young Volunteers Trust, Mrs. Marianne West of the Spastics Society; Mrs. Patricia Wood, a parent and member of the Staff of Lea Castle Hospital, and Mr. A. M. Frank, Chief Regional Officer, whose interesting and informative talks were greatly appreciated by those present.

Lively session

After the Conference there was a lively question and answer session during which the panel of speakers was joined by Mr. Michael Townsend, the Regional Social Worker.

At the Conference displays were organised of the products of Coventry and District Spastics Society's Residential Home

"Penderels," Dudley and District Spastic Group Centre, Kyre Park Centre, the Midland Spastic Association and the Homework section. Spastic Cards were on view and a publicity display by Riding for the Disabled, Stoneleigh.

GRANDMA'S BIG WIN

THE CANTERBURY DISTRICT seems to be lucky for subscribers to the Spastics League Club Double Pool. Recently, Mrs. Elizabeth Ireland of Hoath has won over £1,500—following in the footsteps of Mr. D. Ruffell, of Canterbury, who won over £1,000 only two weeks before.

Mrs. Ireland who has been subscribing for ten years, has nine children whom she brought up on 30/- a week when her husband worked on a farm, 19 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She intends to spend the money on her family.

DO YOU HAVE TROUBLE UNDOING YOUR BRAS?

THIS WAS INCLUDED in a questionnaire compiled by an earnest occupational therapist. As males read it their eyes lit up and they were obviously filled with a burning desire to Tell All. However, if you happen to be a female with poor hand control this is a very real problem. It may be that the answer is in a new booklet "Clothing, Fastenings For The Handicapped and Disabled," published by the Disabled Living Activities Group.*

The booklet does not claim to mention all fastening methods devised but aims at describing types available, various methods of use and helpful adaptations. Also, an important point, the compilers of the book have persuaded the Army and Navy Stores in London to stock all the items mentioned in their haberdashery department and they are available by post.

dashery department and they are available by post.

Thorough explanations are given of the various types and sizes of fastenings on the market and advice is given on weights and laundering. There are a wide variety of different zips for instance, and possibly choice of the most suitable one will make all the difference to independence if suitably placed and equipped with a grab ring.

A menace

Velero, hailed by some as the ultimate answer, has its uses described but warning is given of its tendency to stick to fluffy or woollen surfaces and thus prove rather a menace to the shaky-handed.

In an earlier publication of the Disabled Living Activities

Group "Problems of Clothing For The Sick And Disabled" (Price 10/6.) a firm line was drawn between clothing adapta-

A new 'problem' committee

A small committee on clothing problems has been formed at The Spastics Society's headquarters. Any solutions that News readers have dreamed up for themselves would be welcomed by the Secretary so we can share them out. It is hoped to have a regular feature in the News on clothing. Please help us so we can help you!

tions made for someone who could, with difficulty, dress themselves and adaptations made for the convenience of

the helper of a person requiring dressing. The line is by no means arbitrary but nevertheless it should be borne in mind which side of the team you are trying to ease when adapting fastenings. For the handicapped, for instance, back zips are to be avoided like the plague, whereas they are probably much easier for a helper to cope with.

Although it is not possible to generalise on clothing for the handicapped—difficulties being quite individual—this booklet would be a good buy for a group or Centre. The solution to specific problems may not be covered but a study of its contents may spark off the answer you are seeking.

S. K.
(*Price 7/6d. from 39 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1).

Buxton raise £323 at dinner- dance

A DINNER - DANCE ORGANISED BY THE parents of a resident of Buxton Centre, Derbyshire, produced the fine sum of £323 10s. 0d.

The Warden of the Centre, Mr. D. H. Simpson, was presented with the cheque by Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Greenway, of Clayhouse Farm, Tabley, nr. Knutsford, Cheshire, who had organised the dance and Tombola in Manchester last April. (Unfortunately this item had to be held over from a previous issue of the "News").

It was so successful that they plan to make it an annual event. The proceeds this time will be devoted to equipment for the workshop and physiotherapy room, with the balance going towards decoration and

PIERRE PRESENTED CHEQUES



The Coombe Haven Caravan Park recently invited Pierre Picton to present cheques to local charities. Pierre Picton is here seen presenting a cheque for £100 to Mrs. Marsh, for the S.O.S. holiday centre, Colwall Court.

PATHOS SHOWS IN PICTURES

*"And the twice-told fields of infancy
That his tears burned in my
cheeks and his heart moved in
mine."*

THIS QUOTATION FROM DYLAN THOMAS was the caption to one of the photographs of handicapped children which were scattered among the paintings at All Hallows Church, London Wall, recently, when the Invalid Children's Aid Association held its second Art Exhibition, and expresses much of the pathos inherent in these pictures.

Bought it

So impressed was the President of the Royal Academy, Sir Thomas Monnington, with a picture of a harvest scene by a fourteen-year-old autistic child, that he bought it.

"Educationally sub-normal children," he said, "Show the greatest imagination, sensitivity and vision in their paintings."

He called for research into the reasons for this, as there is not very much difference in quality between such works and those done by the unhandicapped.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Gilbert Inglefield, opened the show.

Three schools

Three of the Society's schools participated this year—Inglefield Manor, Meldreth and Thomas Delarue. There were also a number of pictures in the exhibition which had been painted by spastic children attending other schools.

COUNCIL LISTS ITS SEVEN ESSENTIALS

NEEDS OF THE HANDICAPPED CHILD, the first policy statement of the Joint Council for the Education of Handicapped Children, has recently been circulated among local authorities and other organisations responsible for handicapped children. It sets out a programme for future action.

The Council, formed over two and a half years ago, largely on the initiative of the Association for Special Education, lists six outstanding needs: the early detection of handicap, improved provision in ordinary schools, increased ancillary services both psychological and medical, more help for the handicapped school leaver, more government money for research, and lastly the transfer to the Department of Education and Science of complete responsibility for the education and training of ALL school age children, including the severely subnormal and the delinquent.

Observation

To ensure early detection of handicap, the Council suggests the keeping of some form of observation and 'at risk' register as an essential initial stage. It also wants infant and primary school teachers to take their share in detection, through suitable training in 'observing and recording in the early school years.'

In pressing for the integration of more mildly handicapped children into ordinary schools, the Council lays down seven essentials. These include a planned system of special classes and remedial classes and services, a realisation of the special needs of educational

priority areas, better buildings, equipment and apparatus and a re-examination of methods and curricula in ordinary schools to see if they meet the needs of 'special' children.

It also urges that opportunities for teachers to receive specialist training should be extended and more encouragement given to college of education students to study children's handicaps and learning difficulties.

Responsibility

Referring to the handicapped leaver, the Council proposes that the Department of Education and Science should have continuing responsibility for handicapped children up to the age of at least 18 years and that the Youth Employment Service should be available to the age of 21. The social worker-counsellor—whom the Council sees as an essential element in improved ancillary services—might also give continuing help and advice to

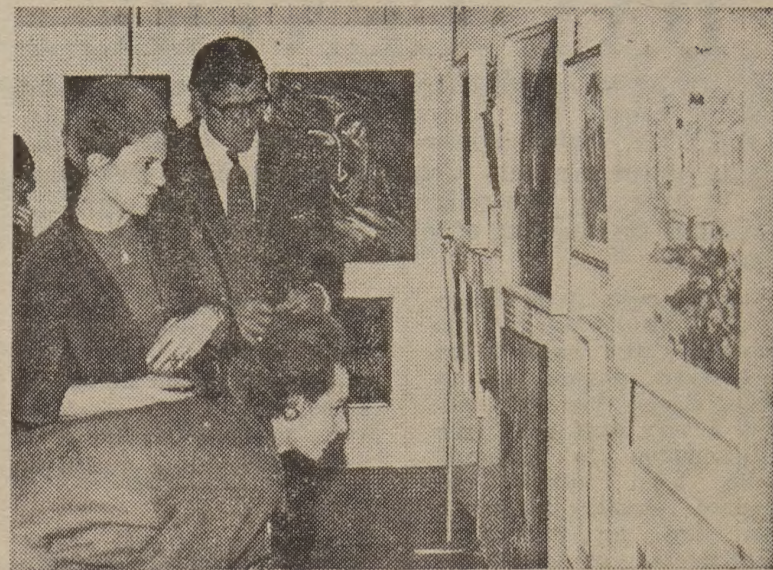
leavers and their families who face difficulties in adjusting to the world outside school.

(The above report has been condensed from the June editorial of Special Education, by kind permission of the Editor).

Welwyn's year shows a surplus

SINCE ITS INCEPTION thirteen years ago, Welwyn Garden City and District Group of the Herts Spastics Society has raised a total of £9,500, reported its Treasurer, Mr. H. E. Holt at the annual general meeting recently. The Chairman, Mr. R. Newman, commented that the past year had been a bumper one, and a surplus of £683 3s. 11d. was shown on the balance sheet.

Art was a hit at Stable Hall



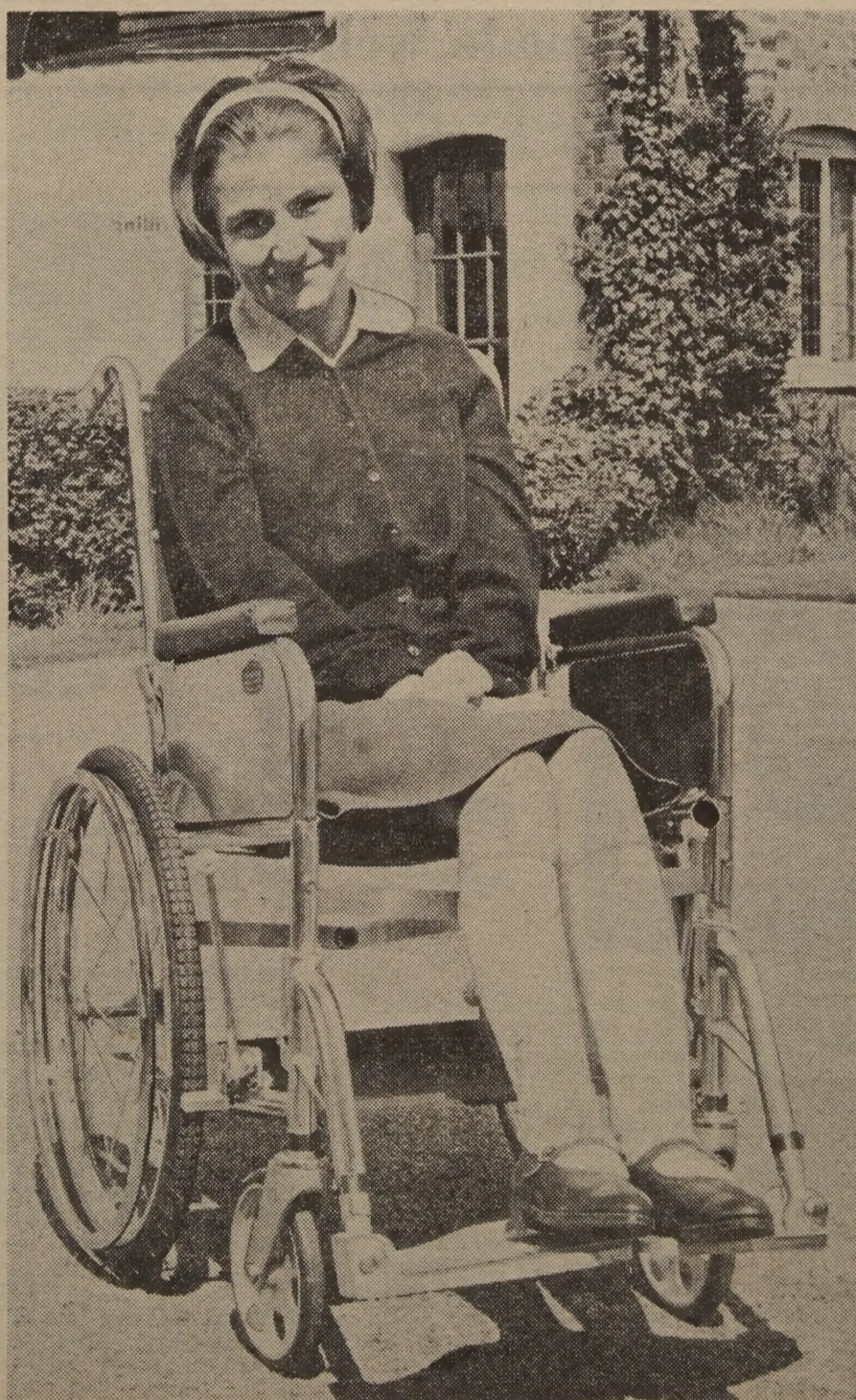
Local artists within a wide radius of Wallingford were invited to submit their works for exhibition in the Old Stable Hall at Castle Priory College, from 12th - 17th May 1968.

Mr. Richard Naish, Head of the Ruskin School of Drawing at Oxford, and Dr. Graham Salmon whose artistic ability and judgement are generally acknowledged in Oxford art circles, joined the Hanging Committee and choose the paintings to be exhibited. Well over 100 paintings were submitted, and 66 were selected for hanging.

The result was a most interesting exhibition showing many different styles and mediums, prices ranging from 2 gns. - 35 gns. The exhibition was open to the public each week-day evening until Friday, 17th May. A total of £55 was raised for the Spastics Society from hanging fees, handling charges, admission charges and 10% of sales. Nine paintings were sold. Our picture shows Mrs. Maisie Haworth-Boott closely inspecting one of the works with two other guests.

The Superb NEWTON Wheelchair

the lightest wheelchair made



Exclusive patented
NEWTON features

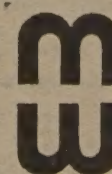
Instantly detachable padded armrests
featuring a press button
autolock

Instantly detachable driving
wheels automatically and
positively locked

Detachable footrests shaped to fit the
foot. Adjustable for height

Nylon bearings needing no
maintenance.

100% guarantee against defective
material or workmanship



THE SPASTICS SOCIETY
Meadway Works
Garretts Green Lane
Birmingham 33
Telephone 921-783 6083

BATTLE 'RAGES' FOR BRIGHTON DAY CENTRE

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Brighton, Hove and District group, the chairman, Ald. D. S. Y. Baker, M.B.E., J.P., told members that as a result of the efforts of the Appeals Committee receipts were keeping in excess of expenditure, although within eighteen months of the opening of Wilbraham House it was full to capacity.

Running costs at the Centre are up to £10,000 p.a. and "the financial battle rages." The thirty-seven spastics who attended during the year come from a very wide area, from Littlehampton to Haywards Heath, and without the hundred voluntary helpers to man and escort coaches, hospital cars and ambulances, they could not continue.

Constant touch

Apart from these day visitors, the Welfare Committee members keep in constant touch with over one hundred spastics who cannot leave home, or are in permanent residential care.

Mrs. M. Carvosso and her loyal staff also coped admirably with the crisis of being cut-off by a snow-storm last December, when thirty-four patients had to be put up over night.

Flag days

They were very gratified too, with the real personal interest taken in their work by their Patron, the Duchess of Norfolk, who had visited the Centre several times, once with the Duke.

As regards fund-raising, the most successful event had been the Annual Fair, which produced £1,114. They had also had successful Flag Days and a Christmas Draw, and several notable donations.

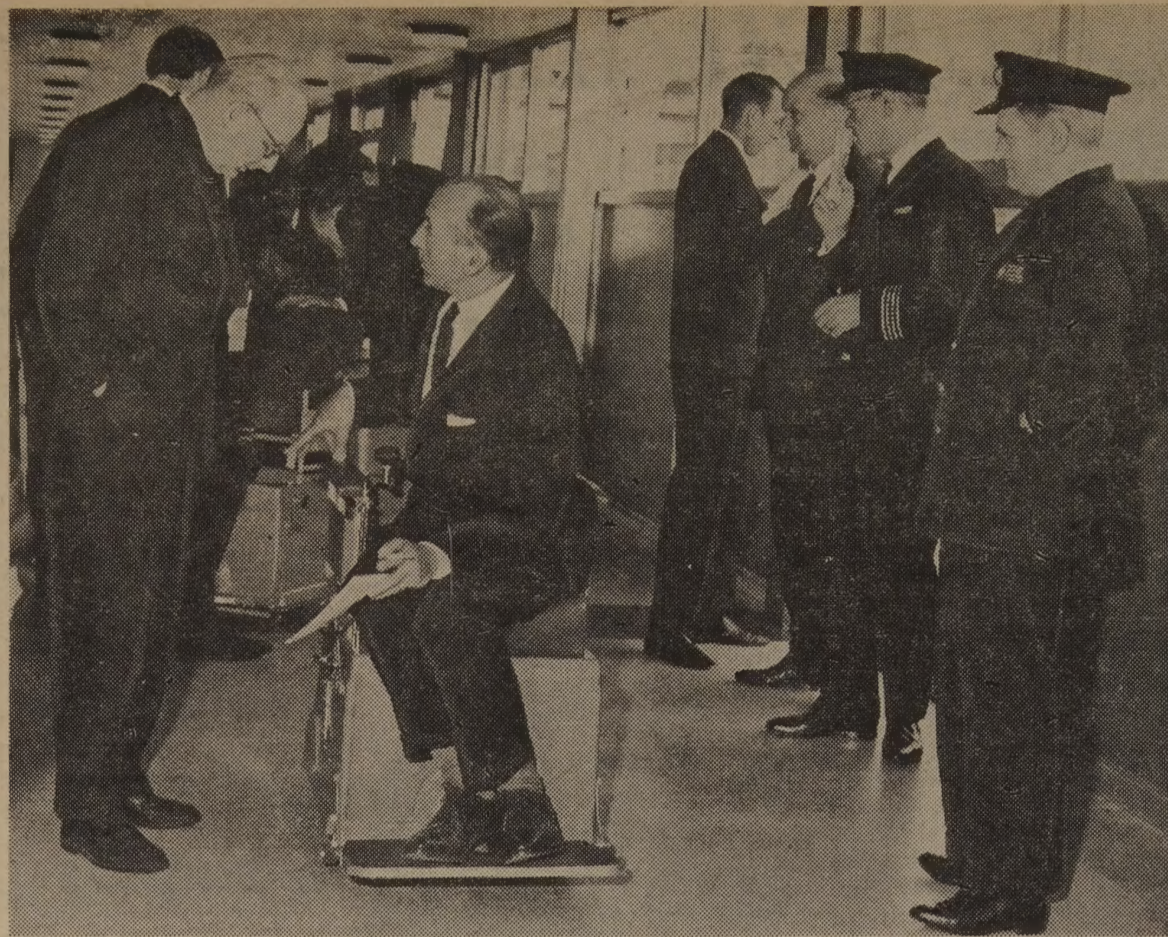
The '62 Club for adults was also going strong.

Mr. Baker concluded with his sincere thanks to the Consultants, Paediatricians and others in the medical field for their professional advice and co-operation.

Wheelchair 'Snowshoes' for the far North

Paraplegics of the hardy type from Canada's north land will be glad to know that someone is thinking about "snowshoes" for their wheelchairs. Recently received from Mr. Cooper Campbell of E. & J. Canada Ltd., was a set of moulded skis for testing to see how they perform and how the material will stand up under frost conditions. The "snow runners" were developed by the E. & J. Subsidiary in Germany.

Extract from 'PARA TRACKS', Canadian Paraplegic Association, Central Western Division, Winnipeg 2, Manitoba. March 1968.



MOVE TO STOP 'WOEFUL TALE'

A DESPERATE APPEAL for workers to raise money was made at the annual general meeting of Dudley and District Spastic Group recently.

Mr. H. Gwinnell, Vice-Chairman, presenting a report in the absence of the Chairman, said that unless more members both young and old could be found there would be a woeful tale to tell next year.

In hand

He was commenting on the fact that expenses were in excess of income by £26—al-

though the Group have some money in hand.

"As a group," Mr. Gwinnell went on, "we are a happy one and do our best but we would like pubs and organisations to take an interest in us and do the same as the Harrier Inn, Tipton, which hands over between £150 and £200 to the group each year.

"Only through the media of the Appeals and Social Committee can we exist. But we can't afford to go back as we have been doing in the last few years."

Electrically powered chairs for invalids are the latest innovation being considered by B.E.A. Passenger Service at Heathrow Airport, London. Approximately 1,600 disabled or invalid passengers a month pass through the Airport and, at present, wheel chairs are used to convey them to and from the flight areas. B.E.A. Passenger Manager, Mr. E. W. Lane, is shown in this picture trying one of the electrically powered chairs manufactured by the General Engineering Division of A.C. Cars Ltd., Thames Ditton, Surrey. Discussing possible modifications with him is Mr. R. H. Parker, designer of the chair, which is known as the EPIC.

NEW CLUB WILL HELP SPEECH...

A NEW SOCIAL Club has been started in the Wallington area of Surrey by Miss Vera Dean, and Spastics in the area are invited to become members.

Miss Dean is particularly concerned that those with speech difficulties should join, because she takes care that everyone should have their say in the running of the club. It meets on the first Thursday of the month at the Girl Guides Hall, Wallington Green, from 4.30-7.45 p.m.

Different members are detailed to make the arrangements for the activities at the meetings, and speakers talk on all kinds of subjects from books to the World Tomorrow. Games are played and Bingo too.

At the moment there are ten members, eight of whom are spastic. Some come direct from work at the Bramley Hill and Sutton Centres, brought by car or ambulance, and tea is taken first of all.

Those of our readers who wish to join should write direct to:— Miss Vera Dean, 38 Blenheim Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.

Leaflets to help fund raising

TWO INTERESTING LEAFLETS have been produced in recent months which are helping the Society's fund raising efforts. The first of these, entitled "What Has Been Done With The Money" tells donors of the new projects that were completed in 1967 and of the new centres and extensions to be completed during 1968. Subscribers can thus see how the money they have given will help spastics.

The second, "The Shilling Fund Form" is a collecting aid. It is set out in such a way that a person giving one shilling and writing his name on a line brings a youngster in a wheeled chair nearer to the door of the school. The form is complete when twenty shillings have been completed. This is particularly interesting to young people collecting from their friends and is proving very popular with schools.

500 enquiries

The Free Film Service is building up a nation-wide interest. In the four days following the spring holiday more than 500 individual enquiries were received at Park Crescent. To make this really valuable to the Society, shopkeepers and others are asked to place an envelope dispenser on display so that customers can take advantage of this free offer. The shopkeeper has nothing to do apart from refilling the dispenser when all the envelopes have been taken. A reserve supply of envelopes is sent with each dispenser.

Please write to The Assistant Director (Appeals), for a dispenser to place in your shop, waiting room, canteen, club hotel, or other much frequented place).

Dog Show downpour

THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL DOG SHOW disappointingly made only about £170 for the Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Society, instead of the expected £500, due to bad weather.

The sun was shining when the show began, but then torrential rain suddenly hit the ground and judging had to take place in the beer tent.

Croydon gymkhana

ON SUNDAY, June 23, Croydon and District Spastics Society held its fifth annual horse show and gymkhana at Kenilworth Stables, Dorking Road, Great Bookham, Surrey. Personal appearance by disc jockey David Jacobs.

Unseasonable for Christmas? Maybe, but when it comes to hard selling, plans have to be made well in advance. And six months is not too early for us.

OUR RANGE OF CHRISTMAS CARDS, calendars, wrapping paper and parcel tags has been revitalised and considerably extended in further steps to diversification.

At the pinnacle of our range stands, as always, the Spastics Printed cards, which continue to be one of our best-selling lines and last year we distributed over 2,000,000 cards. The four-colour cards produced by the Birmingham Sheltered Workshop for the first time two years ago were so successful that we are extending the range this year to four designs.

Modern range

Extremely appealing are the really excellent designs in the Modern range with themes covering a variety of subjects including Children, the Nativity, the Festive Spirit, and, following the success of the introduction of humour into the range last year, a humorous card. These quality cards are balanced by superb Old Master reproductions, providing six designs of excellent taste.

Remaining at the cheaper end of the range will be more proven best-sellers but all new designs, consisting of Winter Scenes, colourful Glitter cards, Nativity Scenes, Festive subjects, an Embossed Candle theme, and Big Value assortments.

Everybody will be impressed by the high quality 12-month-to-view K.I. Calendar in which



each month's view in striking colour photography make charming views of English scenes really "come alive."

The range also includes a variety of Advent Calendars—wonderfully appealing glittering calendars with Angels and Nativity subjects and, in contrast, TWO mobile Advent Calendars.

We have further extended our Calendar range by including two exciting new items. Firstly, a very attractive Engagement Calendar to keep your appointments up to date and secondly a calendar entitled

Variety Views

Particular attention has been paid this year to Parcel Materials and we have introduced for the first time, due to consistent demand, high quality gloss finish paper in our Connoisseur Pack.

Last but not least, our Speciality Lines:—

PERSONAL STATIONERY which can be obtained with or without the customer's address and telephone number and in a variety of paper colours. Then the PAINT A PICTURE SET for children which can be framed when



the pictures are complete. This makes a very good present for children.

As a very special feature within this section, we are offering a FRAMED PRINT for the home. It has been chosen from a list of the 10 best-selling themes published by the Fine Arts Trade Guild and depicts an October Woodland scene. It is entitled "October Morn". J.K.

Write and ask for a free full colour illustrated Christmas card brochure from: Spastics Cards Ltd., Dept. SN1, The Ridgeway, Iwer, Bucks. Telephone Iwer 1930.

GOOD LOO SENSE BY THE COUNCIL

DURING THE NEXT FOUR YEARS the centre of Margate is to be re-developed and some eighty public lavatories are to be constructed. Resulting from representations made by the Thanet Spastics Group, each of these lavatories will be easily accessible with ramps, and at least one cubicle will have wide doors, outward opening, rails and all proper provisions for the disabled and wheel-chair cases.

The Margate Municipal Borough is to be congratulated upon its foresight in providing these facilities, since by so doing the initial cost of construction of each public lava-

tory is only increased by £40, as against a far greater sum which would be involved if alterations had to be made later. It is also hoped the Authority will be looking at the provision of ramps to the beach and other public places where steps are at the present time.

Under the auspices of Mr. David Dixie of the Local Youth Action Group, in consultation with the Thanet Spastics Group, a Guide for the Disabled for the whole of Thanet is being produced, which should prove invaluable to all spastics going to the area for their holidays.



The Abercorn Rooms provided an admirable setting for delegates who attended the Extraordinary General Meeting. Among the speakers were Chairman Mr. W. A. Burn, Director Mr. James Loring, and Professor J. P. M. Tizard.

Anne Plummer reports that the administration was under fire at the E.G.M. But the Director replies — THE NEW SYSTEM IS MUCH MORE EFFICIENT AND WILL COST LESS TOO

THIS YEAR'S EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING and Spring Conference of The Spastics Society was held in the Abercorn Rooms of the Great Eastern Hotel, near Liverpool Street Station.

Plaster nymphs and satyrs cavorting amid the Rococo scrolls and gilded chandeliers on the ceiling looked down with some amazement on the staid proceedings below.

After the usual apologies for absence and other notices read by the Secretary, Mr. R. C. E. Cumplen, the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held last November were approved and adopted. Then Mr. W. A. Burn, the Society's Chairman made his introductory speech to the Conference.

He said that it was just over two years since he was elected as Chairman of the Society and during that time his aim had been to unite the efforts of the Central Organisation and the Groups to make greater fund-raising efforts, to seek maximum help from the Statutory Authorities and work closely with Regional Pools Promotions Ltd.

"We must," he went on, "keep our organisation constantly under review. It is now over

five years since the National Spastics Society merged with the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics, and while many of the decisions then made had stood the test of time admirably — others needed amending and bringing up to date."

Under review

He said that various matters of administration were already under review by the Executive Committee and the most important of them was that the Consultative Council should cease to exist and that membership of the Executive Committee be increased from twelve to fifteen.

The internal administration of the Society was also being reviewed and the regional re-organisation had been a step in this direction. It had been decided to establish a Regional Advisory Panel on which the chairmen of all the Regional Advisory Committees would serve. It was hoped that this would help to draw the Society and its local Groups closer together with a better understanding of each other's problems.

Following Mr. Burn's speech there were some heated remarks from the floor by delegates who felt that Groups should have been consulted earlier about the regional re-organisation programme. The

air was thick with phrases such as "Dictatorial attitude," "Lack of liaison," "Disgraceful for the Executive to talk about Groups as though they were no part of the Society," "The Executive has failed in its duty."

More efficient

Mr. Loring pointed out that every Group still came under a Regional Officer and a Regional Social Worker, even if they had to cover a wider area. He thought the new system would be more efficient and would keep down costs which, after all, was the most important factor for a charity organisation.

Other delegates expressed complete confidence in the Executive Committee and felt that all decisions were made in the best interests of spastics.

WHISTLE STOP TOUR

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY'S Homework Section is organising a whistle-stop tour this month to display and sell items made by home-bound spastics.

Displays are being set up at the Sunderland Spastics Centre on July 6th, at the annual Southampton Show on July 12 and 13, at the West-End stores of Bourne and Hollingsworth, Whiteleys, and Selfridges from July 14 to 20, and at the Hornsey Centre on July 20th.

The displays will consist of hand-made jewellery, soft toys and assorted handicrafts. The profits from sales made in the three London stores will go to the Society's new London Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square, while proceeds from the other displays will go to the Local Groups concerned.

No more piles at the 'Cock'

A PILE OF PENNIES was pushed over at the Cock Inn, Warminster, Wilts., in April by Bath and District Society's chairman, Brigadier Trevor Mossman. The pile, together with an impromptu whip round the bars, raised £12 13s. 4d.

This is the third penny pile collected by "Cock" patrons in recent years. Together with collecting boxes in the bars, they have raised a total of £30 4s. 0d. for spastics.

Because of recent alterations which reduced bartop space, the pub will not be able to collect any more piles. But landlord Mr. Andrew McHugh hopes customers will put more into the collecting boxes which will be kept on.

Day centre

Brigadier Mossman was introduced to customers by the national Society collector for West Wilts. and Somerset, Capt. C. Geoffrey Moss, and said: "A spastic children's day centre is now functioning in the grounds of the Manor Hospital, Bath, and it is to be formally opened on July 18. I hope that many of you will be able to attend the opening or visit the centre afterwards."

"The centre cost £17,000. Of this, £15,000 has been provided by the national society and £2,000 by the local society."

Crash went the ivories

SIX THOUSAND people attended a fete organised by Grantham Round Table in aid of a holiday chalet for spastics at Chapel St. Leonards.

Among the attractions were a car parade, a scooter display and the band of the Prince of Wales Own Regiment. There was also an exhibition of square dancing and the Belvoir Hounds appeared in the arena. Events concluded with a piano-smashing competition.

Brain transplant ? Perhaps says Paediatrics expert

THERE WAS NO possible cure for cerebral palsy at present as missing or damaged brain cells could not be replaced, Professor J. P. M. Tizard told delegates at the E.G.M. However, with the recent advances in transplant surgery, perhaps in time a way would be discovered of transplanting brains.

In a highly stimulating talk, Professor Tizard, Professor of Paediatrics and Clinician at the Neo-natal Department of the Institute of Child Health, University of London, and the Nuffield Neo-natal Research Unit, Hammersmith Hospital, said no single clear cause of brain damage has been found, but intensive research had been done on premature babies as there was a high incidence of Cerebral Palsy amongst these.

Too much oxygen given to the premature baby in an incubator had been considered as a possible cause of blindness, but too little could cause Cerebral Palsy.

Glucose level

For the past four years the Research Unit had automatically been measuring the glucose level in the blood of all premature babies in case this had any bearing on the subject.

Where one of a pair of twins was spastic, this was usually the first to be born.

It was thought that the conception date could also have a bearing on prematurity.

Ideally, all mothers should have their babies in hospital, and especially those who were "at risk" for some reason.

Same rate

Therapy was not so important that it should be pursued to the exclusion of everything else and disrupt all home life. Very often two children who had similar de-



Professor J. P. M. Tizard pictured during his talk to the E.G.M.

grees of handicap would progress at the same rate even if one had had intensive physiotherapy and the other had just been encouraged to join in the normal activities of everyday life. Professor Tizard added that it was impossible to say whether it was better for a child to attend a residential school or Day Centre.

After lunch the delegates split up into seven study groups to discuss various points arising from Professor Tizard's talk.

At three o'clock the whole conference re-assembled and the chairman of each study group gave a brief resumé of what had been said, so that Professor Tizard could comment and answer questions.

Among the points brought up

was the high incidence of both Cerebral Palsy and Spina Bifida in South Wales. Professor Tizard said he could see no connection between the two handicaps, but there was a slight possibility that nutritional defects might play some part. The brain development of even the normal foetus was not yet fully understood, but autopsies were being carried out on all still-births and premature babies who had died in infancy.

On the question of early diagnosis, a better practitioner service was called for, but Professor Tizard said that G.P.s could only learn by experience to recognise the symptoms of Cerebral Palsy.

Good idea

Professor Tizard thought it would be a good idea to have more centres catering for different types of disabilities, as a child with multiple handicaps might be rejected for a certain school on one ground where he would have been accepted on another. These kinds of centres would probably be more economical as the Spastics Society could collaborate with other organisations for the disabled.

The final problem raised was that of finance. Here it was felt that more help should be enlisted from Local Authorities. Some Groups were able to get help for building, etc., while others were less successful. Certain areas where National Schools and Centres were more thick on the ground had great difficulty in raising funds.

THE HIGH CHAIR THAT EASILY BECOMES...

baby relax
PACKAWAY
ALL-PURPOSE BABY CHAIR

<p> </p> <p>CAR SEAT</p>	<p> </p> <p>LOW CHAIR & POTTIE CHAIR</p>
<p> </p> <p>SWING & CANOPY</p>	<p> </p> <p>PACKAWAY</p>

A versatile chair that can be used

FROM ONE MONTH

Other popular Baby Relax products include the BABYPARK PLAYPEN — SQUEEZY SQUEAK POTTIE — BABY SEAT.

All are obtainable from leading Nursery Shops or details of all products can be obtained direct from **BABY RELAX LTD. RAINHAM ESSEX**

HELPING OUT — A TWO-WAY BUSINESS

THE WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE was held at The Queen's Building, University of Exeter, and was attended by approximately 70 delegates, the majority of whom came from Groups, who were all represented. There were fewer representatives of Local Authorities this year, since they, themselves, had conferences organised previously.

Mrs. Gwyneth Dunwoody, M.P. for Exeter, was a most excellent Chairman and spoke of the great contribution of the Society to the Welfare State. She paid tribute to all those who were working to help spastics throughout the country.

The Mayor of Exeter, Alderman R. E. C. Board, J.P., gave an address of civic welcome and extolled the virtues of his city as a place to hold conferences.

The first speaker in the morning session was Miss Jane Markham, the Organising Officer of the Birmingham Young Volunteers Trust, whose subject was "Youth and Involvement." She said that young people want to become involved in our activities and do not want to just "do good". They want to help young people in their own age group and this is a two-way process in which both parties derive considerable benefit.

P.H.A.B. clubs

She spoke of the problems of handicapped people moving around in our towns and cities and the difficulties which they experience. This applied to public buildings, including cinemas and theatres. She also mentioned the PHAB clubs throughout the country and the value of integrating the physically handicapped with the able-

been achieved in the Region and spoke of the work of the Regional Advisory Committee and also of the new Regional Organisation.

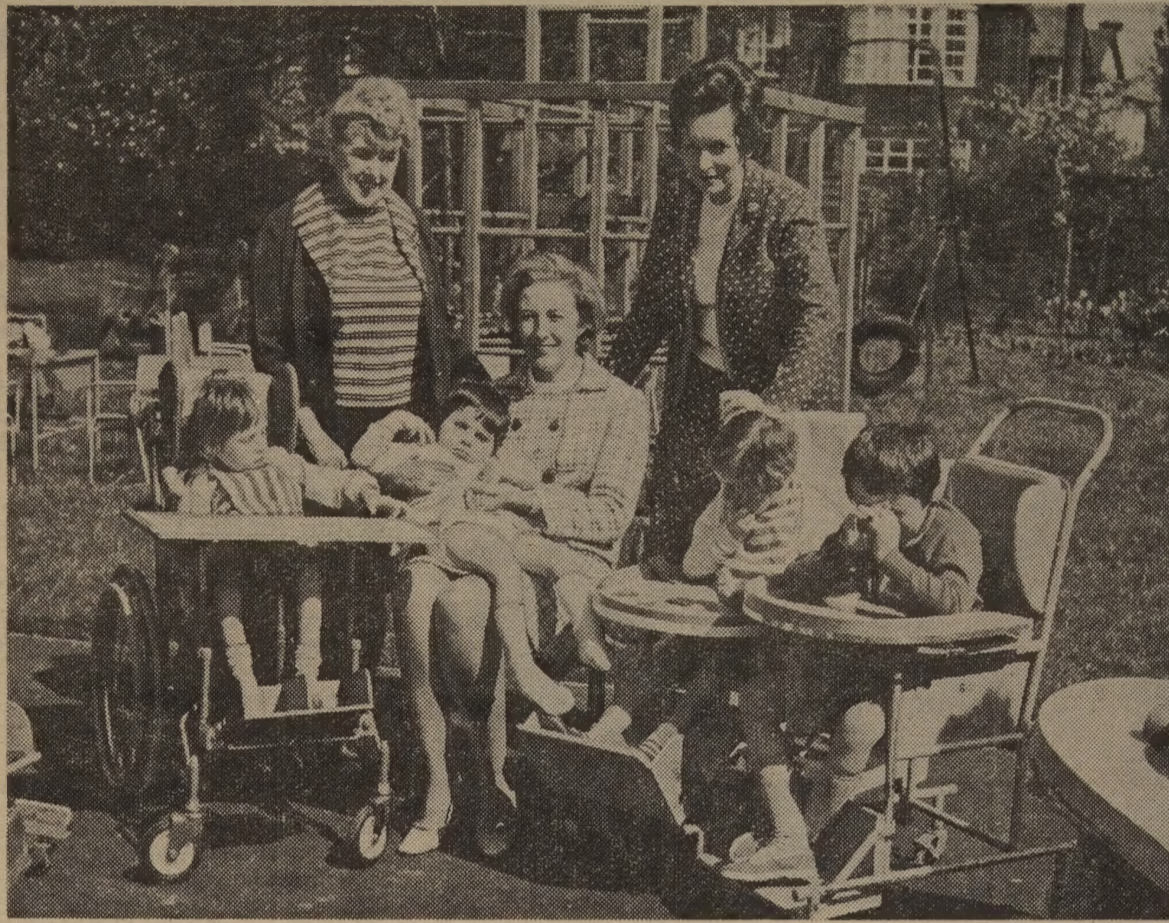
There were various exhibitions and these included an excellent one on Aids for the Disabled by Miss Molly Sabel of the Exeter branch of The British Red Cross Society. Mr. Dobson also had an exhibition of work produced by members of the Homework Section and also did a fairly brisk trade. Mrs. Ursula Richardson, an Assistant County Commissioner had a stand showing the activities of disabled Scouts and Guides. The new range of Christmas cards was also on show.

P. J. H. POPE,
West Regional Officer

Vera Visits Pictor

Vera Lynn, joint Chairman of the Stars' Organisation for Spastics, on a recent visit to Pictor House, the centre run by the Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society. Standing on Miss Lynn's right is Mrs. Lil Stockdale, M.B.E., local Group Chairman, and a member of The Spastics Society's Executive Committee.

Earlier in the day, Miss Lynn had visited Hale library, where an exhibition of spastics' work was on show.



HAFLINGER PONIES

AUSTRIAN HAFLINGER ponies which can be trained for spastic children to ride, are to be imported into Ireland. A number of the ponies have

been bought by Mr. Gerry Bellingham, of Co. Meath, from a famous stud at Innsbruck, owned by Mr. Otto Schweissgut, the world's leading breeder of these ponies. The ponies are now being trained at Newmarket.

New holiday home for the E. Coast

MR. & MRS. N. C. LOUCH, members of the Tunbridge Wells Group, moved to Ruth House, Cliff Avenue, Cromer, at the end of May. It is their intention that Ruth House shall provide holidays for families with spastic children.

The house consists of three floors with two fire escapes, a large garden with lawn, and within a few minutes of the promenade and a sandy beach.

The house will be converted into five self-contained flats, and there are five bathrooms and toilets as well as a downstairs cloakroom. Two communal lounges are on the ground floor and there is central heating.

Personal venture

It is hoped to have two flats in operation by August of this year. Charges, which will be

supplied on application, will range from 10 gns. to 15 gns. per week for a family of three or four. There will be additional cost for extra bedrooms.

This is a personal venture on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Louch, who are parents of a spastic child. At the moment, children who are completely chair-bound cannot be admitted but it is hoped that a lift will be installed later.

Ruth House is not far from many places of interest, including Sandringham and the Broads, and will serve the East and West Midlands, East Anglia and Northern Home Counties.

The 100 years cake



Matron, children and members of staff at the Watford Spastics Treatment Centre admire a giant cake which has just been presented to them. The cake was specially baked by Finchley and

Barnet Master Bakers' Association to mark the Association's one hundredth anniversary.

(Photo: Evening Echo, Hemel Hempstead).

Happier through music therapy

DEDICATED TO "THOSE OF EVERY TIME and culture who have used music as a means of helping the sick and the handicapped to happier lives of greater creativity," is a new ten-part volume, "Music in Therapy," edited by E. Thayer Gaston, Ph.D. (Professor of Music Education, The University of Kansas).

In each section one particular aspect of the subject is exhaustively dealt with by an expert in that field and additional material is supplied by different hands.

The editor himself introduces this valuable symposium and covers the fundamentals of the subject in his article on the Foundations of Music in Therapy. The use of the preposition "in" marks an emphasis which should not be overlooked; in other words music is envisaged here as just one of the means whereby the sick or handicapped can be helped to a fuller life.

The different chapters cover a number of disabilities, mental retardation in children and adults, Behaviour disorders, Geriatric patients, autism, etc. The section on Cerebral Palsy is written by Professor Erwin H. Schneider, R.M.T., Head of Music Education at Ohio State University, Columbus, and by John W. Bixler, R.M.T. of the Hospital School, Iowa.

A stimulant

They describe music as a stimulant or relaxant, the beneficial effects of participation in group effort, and so on. But although there is a considerable list of References, the complex nature of most C.P. subjects and the varying degrees of speech, auditory or visual handicap makes any comparisons speculative.

Miss Juliette Alvin, who is known to readers of Spastics News, has contributed an interesting article on the Changing Patterns of Music Therapy—particularly since the Mental Health Act of 1959.

Tuck-shop out of a dovecote

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS of Rutland will both play an active part in the double event taking place at The Spastics Society's Wilfred Pickles School in Stamford, Lincs., on 20th July.

The first part of the programme will be the school's annual Speech Day, during which the Duchess will present prizes.

Then will come the official opening of the school's new building extensions by the Duke.

The extensions include two new residential blocks, covered linkage of all the main school buildings and a new gymnasium. The old dovecote has also been converted into a tuck-shop.

One of the new blocks accommodates 12 girls. The other, which can accommodate 18 beds, is being used initially for educational purposes, providing an extra classroom, a science laboratory, a darkroom and a library.

CROYDON SCHOOL'S NEW HEAD

ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL, Croydon, is to have a change of Head in the Autumn. Miss M. A. Budd, who has been Headmistress for nearly 22 years, and has been closely connected with the development of the School, retires at the end of the Summer Term.

She will be succeeded by Mr. Trefor Davies-Isaac, an honours graduate of the University College of North Wales, Bangor, who has been for some years a master at Welburn Hall School, Kirbymoorside, York. As this is a boarding school for physically handicapped children, Mr. Isaac's experience there will be very relevant to his work at St. Margaret's, also a boarding school for cerebral palsied children.

Clinic appeal from Mayor

The Mayor of Barnstaple has launched an appeal to enable the opening of a treatment clinic for local spastic children at Abbeyfield House, Barnstaple.

At present treatment is available only at Exeter, and it is hoped that specialists will travel from there to the new clinic until local specialists have been trained to staff it.

WINNERS WORKS WILL BE AT FIVE CENTRES

A BIG COMPETITION FOR SPASTICS is being organised again this year by the North West Regional Officer, Mr. R. F. Whyte.

It embraces original works in painting or drawing, handicrafts and essay writing. Entrants are to be divided into four classes, e.g. up to 10 years old; 10 to 16 years; 16 to 20 years old.

Entry forms and the rules and conditions of the competition can be obtained from the Regional Officer and must be returned by August 1st. Non-spastic, but handicapped members of '62 Clubs are also eligible, as are people who failed to secure a place last year.

It only costs 1/- to enter any one exhibit and prizes are being offered of £5, £3, and £1 10s. 0d. for the first three places in each section. Groups are being asked to help with the prize-money.

Judging will take place on or before September 1st, and competitors will be told the results before the North Merseyside Spastics Week, which starts on September 16th.

Exhibitions of the winners' work will be held at the five Group Centres.

So, "get your paper and your pencils out"—and have a go, you "mute" if not "inglorious" Miltons and you hesitant Hepworths!

The afternoon speakers

The first speaker during the afternoon was Mr. John Kellett, Managing Director of Spastics Cards Limited, who spoke about this year's range and gave a lot of helpful information and advice. He was followed by Mr. Arthur Dobson, the Manager of the Homework Section, who told the conference of the need for increasing sales of work in order that more spastics could be employed in their homes.

bodied. Miss Markham is about to take up a new appointment with the National Association of Youth Clubs in London dealing with this particular subject.

The second speaker was Dr. Margaret Griffiths whose subject was "Cerebral Palsy as a Family Problem."

Communication

She said that there was no such thing as a normal family, since every family had its problems of one sort or another. She said that many families with spastic children were primarily concerned with the improvement of motor movement, whereas she considered that communication was of even greater importance. She spoke of the problems of trying to help spastics to achieve independence and advised parents to try to see where the child's talents lay and to try to develop them. Dr. Griffiths gave a great deal of helpful advice to parents on how they could best help their handicapped children.

Mr. F. G. T. Pearce, the Chairman of the Regional Advisory Committee, gave a report of the work that had

DISABLED 'LEARN TO USE THEIR HEADS . . .

A Pilot Study of Disabled Housewives in their Kitchens by P. M. Howie. Price 25/-

THIS IS ONE OF THE MANY USEFUL surveys which are carried out at intervals by the Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled.

Thirty housewives with various disabilities, such as arthritis, hemiplegia, polio and muscular inco-ordination, were asked to record all their movements in the kitchen for a whole day.

Fewer moves

Their activities were then compared with a control group of thirty able-bodied housewives and, as one would expect, the disabled group made far fewer moves, between work centres than the unhandicapped women. "When you're disabled you soon learn to use your head to save your legs," as a spastic woman once said.

The layout of most kitchens described left much to be desired. Many had too wide a space between sink and cooker, which was found to be the most frequently traversed pathway. Women who were shaky on their feet liked plenty of stable fixtures set close together, to steady them as they moved around the room, while wheelchair users preferred a large kitchen in which they could manoeuvre more easily.

Many of the housewives in the survey found a high trolley very useful for carrying goods from one working area to another or into the dining room. It was interesting to find that these can be made to individual specification in the Occupational Therapy Department of Kings College Hospital at quite reasonable cost.

A drawback

Ideally, kitchens should be designed to suit the individual housewife but finance is obviously the great drawback here. However, the book suggests that Occupational Therapists might be called in to advise on modifications to existing homes.

With crippling diseases such as arthritis on the increase, a rapidly ageing population and the break-up of the larger family unit, there will obviously be a real need for adequate housing of the disabled who wish to remain independent. Surveys such as this can do much to prepare the ground.

(Can be ordered from the Central Council for the Disabled, 39 Victoria St., London, S.W.1).

'COURIER' HELPS YOUNG PARENTS

YEOVIL AND DISTRICT Spastics Welfare Society has its own magazine, The Courier, which is published regularly under the editorship of Miss Neville Curtis. "It has become very popular with Society Members," said the Chairman, Mr. W. A. Day, speaking at the seventh Annual General Meeting recently.

The latest issue of "The Courier" contains an extremely

Joy Maitland visits a young handicapped couple in Bristol and finds that a routine is all-important in their home . . .

THREE MONTHS' PREPARATION WOULD HAVE BEEN THE IDEAL PLAN

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS that face a young couple when they are both handicapped? How do they plan their daily living? What difficulties do they encounter? How do they overcome them?

To find out how one particular couple has set about tackling the practical side of married life, I went down to see Anthony and Joan Sutton, who live in a modern, semi-detached bungalow near Bristol.

Anthony is an athetoid, confined to a wheelchair. He can just stand with the support of something to hold on to. Joan had arthritis as a child, with the result that now she can't bend her back or her legs. She can use her hands, however, but would find carrying a weighty tray difficult.

Obviously one of the big problems a handicapped couple faces is the time that it takes to get through the routine of daily living, and I asked Joan how she organised the running of their home.

Bread winner

Straightaway she admitted to having a routine, liking it and sticking to it!

"We wanted to have the smoothest life possible, as far as routine tasks were concerned," Anthony told me firmly, "and therefore Joan does not go out to work, even though, financially, things might be easier if she did. Because I'm the bread-winner, my role in the home is confined to emptying the pedal bin and picking up things which drop on the floor because Joan is not able to bend. But, of course, if Joan did go out to work then I would want to do a great deal more to help her around the house."

They both stress that the bungalow, which Anthony found before their marriage, is very near to ideal in layout for a disabled couple; the only snag being there is no central heating which they would like.

Not decorated

When Anthony discovered the bungalow it was plastered but not decorated. The best time to buy for a disabled couple, they think, would have been three months earlier, so that they could have had the bungalow adapted to their own particular needs. Plugs fitted three feet up the wall instead of at ground level is just one adjustment they would have liked and sliding doors — especially for the living room.

Two bars, by the toilet and over the bath, so Anthony can haul himself up and down, and an extra lever attached to the gas fire, which means that Joan can control the heat with her foot, are the only other aids they have about the house.

Their split level gas stove is part of the normal range put out by the Gas Board. The jets are set on a plinth at a

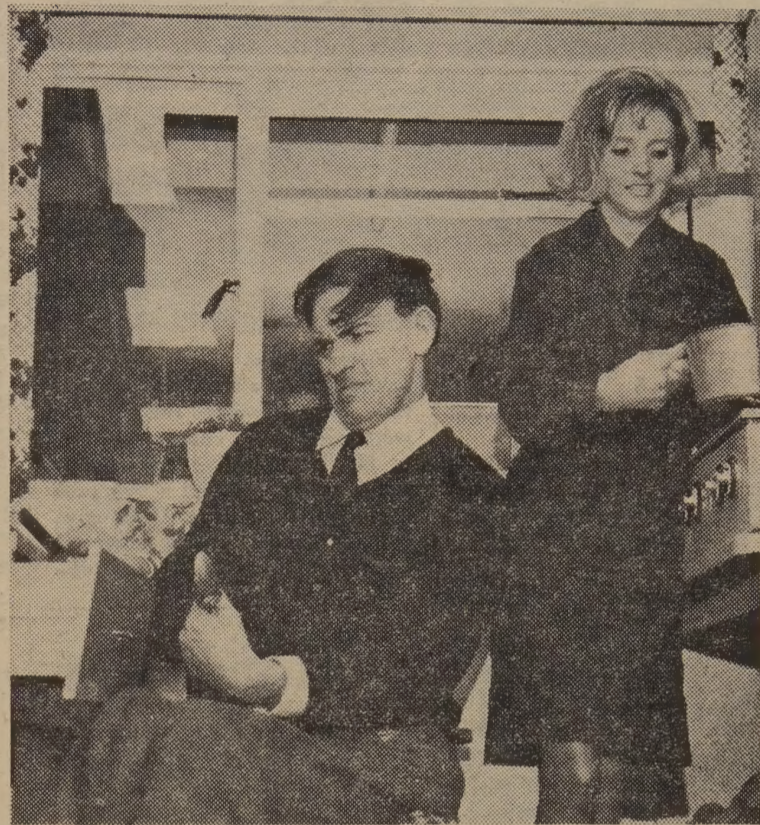
height Joan finds easy to work and the oven, on a corresponding level, Joan uses as a fridge, which is a tip other people could well follow.

The routine running of the house Joan finds she can cope with very well—and that includes bed-making.

Joan and Anthony have this task down to a fine art. One taking one side and one the other, and they make it together as soon as they get up, so that is one job less to do after breakfast, and saves Joan the large amount of walking which making a double bed single-handed can involve. Extra large blankets and sheets are a great help here because the bed stays tucked in at the bottom.

A purpose

The house is well but not over-furnished, and some of their ideas could, I thought, be followed by many married couples. Each piece of furniture had a purpose and there was an absence of knick knacks on floor level, which clutter up



Anthony and Joan Sutton cope with the problem of serving a meal. A routine is essential for smooth running in the home.

so many homes. Anthony dislikes having to negotiate obstacles in his wheelchair.

I asked them if there were any jobs which they felt took them longer than an able-bodied person, and asked how they coped with these particular problems.

Dressing, they thought took them longer, although they have found by experimenting the quickest way of doing things. Now Joan helps Anthony to dress before she gets the breakfast. When they were first married she left him to struggle to dress himself while she got the breakfast. Now they both realise it is quicker if Anthony is dressed

ready for work, before Joan prepares breakfast.

Gardening is obviously a problem, too, and Joan was a bit worried about a couple of plants which seemed to have died an unnatural death. They are dependent here on somebody else, as physically they find gardening impossible. (See Spastics News, April, '68).

One of the greatest pleasures in Anthony's life is driving and he enjoys commuting to Bristol every day in his Vauxhall Viva. He has a great interest in and love of cars and is an excellent driver. Joan has her own trike, so she is able to get out to the shops and is not house-bound while Anthony is at work.

They met through the Disabled Drivers Association and Joan admits that before their marriage she had very little interest in disabled people, but as her husband, in addition to being Chairman of the local '62 Club, is press officer for the Bristol and area D.D.A., and is also on their area committee, Joan has been plunged into the world of the disabled and their problems and is enjoying the experience hugely.

They usually take their holidays at a D.D.A. hotel in East Anglia, which is built on similar lines to the Society's hotel in Southend and where Anthony can enjoy the companionship of other car enthusiasts.

New friends

One problem most newly-married couples have to face—the other partner's friends—didn't arise! When they married they came down to Bristol where they knew nobody, so any friends they've made, they've made together. These include able-bodied people of their own age, who've helped them in many small ways. They've met with a great deal of kindness, too, from local shopkeepers and they both feel convinced that they score by living outside a big city, where the tempo is slower and people have time for those every-day kindnesses which in a large city aren't always forthcoming.

They have their lives well organised, this is obvious and equally obviously this organisation pays. Joan doesn't have to work when Anthony is home and all weekends and evenings are free. The result: they are far more active than some of their able-bodied friends and, although they didn't suggest this, I felt a great deal happier, more tolerant and better-adjusted than many married couples.

Holiday Time ! And Colwall Court comes into its own again

HOLIDAY TIME IS HERE once more and already the first influx of visitors have been enjoying the fun of Colwall Court, the children's holiday hotel in Sussex which is run by the Stars Organisation for Spastics.

The S.O.S. was set up in 1955 by a group of show business personalities who inaugurated such regular events as the Annual Ball and the Record Star Show. Two years later they had collected enough money to open a holiday home for spastic children. Suitable premises were found at Colwall Court, Bexhill-on-Sea and after extensive structural alterations and improvements had been made, the hotel was officially opened in 1959. Since then the S.O.S. has also opened Wakes Hall in Essex as a residential home for adult spastics Colwall Court and Wakes Hall between them cost the S.O.S. £12,500 a year to run.

The hotel is a pleasant mellowed brick structure built between the wars. A lift has been installed to carry wheelchairs up to the first floor where the children are accommodated in four-bedded rooms. Bathrooms are fitted with the usual aids for the disabled and there is a well-equipped laundry on the first floor. Most of the main ground-floor rooms are called after children or relatives of the Stars who have donated their furnishings.

There are beds for eighteen

unaccompanied young spastics up to the age of 16. Very often one of The Spastics Society's school's or groups will take a block booking and at the time of my visit there was a party of children with two house-mothers from Meldreth, staying for the four-week Easter break.

The parents of these children did not want them at home and they had nowhere

settled down very happily with the Meldreth group.

The little hotel certainly supplies all the ingredients which children expect from a seaside holiday. It has its own private strip of beach with a "Funicular railway," for taking everybody down from the promenade, while there is an indoor bathing pool in the grounds of the hotel itself. There are spacious lawns where the more ambulant children can run about, a sand-pit and a full-sized model boat. On wet days the children can play with a wide variety of structural toys in the large sun lounge or they can have the Radio and TV. They are also taken out in the mini-bus for rides through the pleasant Sussex countryside.

Healthy appetites

The food, cooked by a Chef, is of excellent quality. On the day I was there we had steak and kidney with dumplings and three vegetables, followed by rice pudding and mandarin oranges. The sea air had obviously given the children a healthy appetite as they all finished with clean plates.

by

Anne Plummer

Although it took some of them a long time, most of the Meldreth contingent were able to feed themselves, but very often there are five or six who need to be fed and this makes heavy demands on the staff at mealtimes. Colwall Court often takes the very heavily handicapped type of spastic who need to have everything done for them but naturally it is easier if they can feed or toilet themselves.

Colwall Court is run by a Management Committee of twenty-five stars under the Chairmanship of Hy Hazell. Apart from domestic workers the paid staff consists of the Manager and Manageress, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Marsh, their Deputy, Mrs. Green, two house-mothers, a night nurse and an S.R.N.

Voluntary help ranges from two 16-year-old schoolgirls who come in to help with the children in the pool to Mr. Messenger, an 85-year-old local resident who takes a child out in a wheelchair every day. This shows that one section of the Bexhill community at least takes an interest in the young holidaymakers, despite the storm of protest which arose when Colwall Court was first opened and local residents said that it would spoil the value of their property.



Going, going, going — a diddy-stick, pinny, hairnet and feather

ENA SHARPLES' hairnet, Ken Dodd's diddy-stick, a long-playing autographed record of the Black and White Minstrel show, a pinafore autographed by Harry Secombe and the cast of the current London stage hit "The Three Musketeers," and a feather from Harry Secombe's hat, were among the novelty items auctioned at the Craig-y-Parc spastics school's bumper garden party at Pentyrch, Cardiff, on Saturday, June 22.

'CHARLIE GIRL' BOY OPENER

POP STAR Joe Brown of "the Bruvvers" fame who starred in the musical "Charlie Girl" at the Adelphi Theatre, London, opened a garden party at the Society's Hawksworth Hall assessment centre at Guiseley, Leeds, on Saturday, June 22.

The garden party—an annual event—was held to raise money towards the running costs of the centre.

Mr. J. D. Johnson, principal of the centre, said "Last year we raised £680 and we hope to beat that figure this year."

Hawksworth Hall was opened in 1957 for assessing the learning potential of spastic children who are so severely handicapped that their educability cannot be established by normal methods of assessment. The centre accommodate 24 children aged from 5 to 12.

The event, which was planned to raise money for the school was opened by Mr. C. E. Banham, chairman of Tenovus, the organisation which does so much for charity.

The spacious grounds including balconies and terraces, will be decorated with bunting, banners and balloons, and side shows and stalls will be manned by pupils, staff and friends of the school.

Mrs. C. M. Kearslake, headmistress of Craig-y-Parc, said: "This is the biggest garden party we have ever held. We are going all out to raise a record amount this year towards the running costs of the school as The Spastics Society is going through an especially difficult financial period."

T.V. FAREWELL

The Redifusion company, which has lost its ITV contract, will make its screen farewell with the showing of a TV documentary on spastics. The film has been made voluntarily by members of the Redifusion staff in their spare time. It will be shown on July 29 at 10.30 p.m.

After a new coach had been handed over to the Chailey Heritage hospital school the children were taken on a "christening" run to Newhaven. The vehicle was purpose-built and has a hydraulic lift for wheel chairs. Until now, the school has a succession of various vehicles used for outings.

Watford's new shop ready 'any day now'

WATFORD Spastics Group who aim to have at least one major fund-raising event each month, will soon be launching their most ambitious project yet; a shop, situated near the Town Hall in the very heart of the town.

It has taken them a year of negotiations to acquire suitable premises.

ANY DAY NOW

"But now the formalities are almost complete, and we hope to open any day now" says Mrs. M. H. Willis, the Group's honorary secretary.

Meanwhile Mrs. Willis's garage has become crammed with goods collected by members over the months to stock the new business. They plan to sell "everything you can think of", with jewellery and other items made by spastics as a special feature.

And their event for July? A steam traction and engine rally.

The 'give and take' of normal life 'HOUSE UNIT' IS FIRST OF ITS KIND

A COMPLETELY new type of residence for adult spastics will open in Cardiff next month.

Described as a "house unit," it has been built by The Spastics Society in Cyncoed Road, and is the first project of its kind in the country.

It will accommodate 21 residents, and its aim is to foster self-help and social awareness by keeping a careful balance between the lightly handicapped and those with heavier disabilities.

It is envisaged that about 60 per cent of the residents will have light handicaps, and 40 per cent more heavy ones. They will then be encouraged to help each other by "pooling" each day to jobs at the nearby Sully Work Centre.

MORE SCOPE

The new centre, a converted Victorian mansion set in three acres, was originally intended their physical resources.

"We think this will give

them more scope for independence, and enable them to identify more closely with the give-and-take of normal living" said a spokesman. "It will also eliminate the need for the very high ratio of staff needed in our other adult residential centres."

All the residents will travel to be one of 12 Family Help Units that the Society had hoped to set up throughout England and Wales to provide short-term relief for the parents of spastic children during holiday times, or in cases of family illness or crisis.

But such units are extremely costly to run, and the Society

was forced to abandon the plan through lack of funds.

Accommodation for adult spastics is a particularly urgent problem, so it was decided to convert the Cardiff building to this purpose.

INSTANT Embroidery Wasp- waisted tubes

TRI CHEM LIQUID EMBROIDERY is a new way of decorating fabrics without using needle and thread. Tubes of paint with special ballpoint ends are used. There is a range of eighteen brilliant colours which will stand up to washing.

I was asked to try them out as an Athetoid "Guinea Pig" and found that, with practice, I could handle them reasonably well. However, it was difficult to keep holding the tubes for long periods in the required upright position. Also one is not supposed to squeeze the tubes at all, but owing to my ham-fisted grasp, most of the sample tubes finished up slightly wasp-waisted.

Steady Hands

We had been sent some samples of linen tray-cloths, stencilled with outline designs ready to be filled in with colour—exactly like embroidery transfers of 30 years ago, in fact. However, these should be attempted only by people with very steady hands, as it is difficult to keep to the outlines and mistakes cannot be rectified.

Although I have no drawing ability whatsoever, I tried out a few infantile flower and animal shapes. The result would not have disgraced a four-year-old. Afterwards I washed the cotton rag on which I had been doodling and it is true that the colours will not come out. The smudges would not wash off my hands either, but these eventually responded to nail varnish remover.

The paints can be used on any sort of material, including paper, glass, china, and, presumably, canvas. The tubes are easier to handle than a paintbrush and one would not need a palette although, of course, one could not mix colours so well as with oils or water colours.

A. P.

BRIGHT SUBS IDEA LAUNCHES NEWEST 'MAG'

IT WOULD BE EASY to pan "Help," the new magazine on charity, but on the whole, unfair. There is something slick, even pretentious about it, but let's face it, its heart is in the right place.

It appears in all its full-colour web-offset glory at a time when after much discussion it was decided to abandon the magazine format of Spastics News in favour of a cheaper newspaper production, and so one is perhaps inclined to view Mr. Richard Exley's expensive publication with a degree of suspicion. One hopes that the name of Group Captain Leonard Cheshire V.C. as Director will ensure its rectitude.

Massive Support

Distribution by voluntary effort—with 10/- saved on a £2 2s. sub. to go to a favourite charity is certainly a bright idea and one that shows that "Help" practises what it preaches, but one can't help thinking they will need massive advertising support from the charities themselves as well as the big names in business with

full page monotone ads, costing £280 per page. First print order was 150,000, which works out fairly expensive per head, even if actual readership is over that figure.

Now to the contents—and (pace Richard), I have read every word!

I wasn't sure that the make-up and contents of the first issue quite fulfilled the promise of the dummy, but the cover is a very lovely photograph, and there are lots of good ideas inside. One that is not a good idea is the way editorial jumps from one page to another.

Idealism

The principal article is on Subnormality Hospitals with an extensive quotation from one of Mr. Loring's many speeches on the subject (Spastics get new "Rebel" boss); there is also a good description of the scandal of the closure of Risinghill School which needed re-telling, and an interesting story of idealism in action in industry about the Quaker, Scott Bader. The list of voluntary work available is headed by a singularly inapt slogan of "Go to work on an Osprey egg." Surely Ospreys are protected?

So, we are promised in future issues articles on Gypsies, Frigidity, The Rhondia. Send to: 2 Arundel Street, London, W.C.2 for a copy.

O. R. B.

Our wheelchair football is great fun — AND WE BEAT WATFORD F.C.

By Bill Smith

IT MAY SEEM unbelievable, but some of the Family at Ponds are able to play wheelchair football.

You may be wondering as you read this how anyone can possibly play football in a wheelchair. It is difficult enough when one is on one's feet, let alone when one is in a chair. It can be more dangerous too! The idea is to have five people on each side, two of them being mobile. The purpose of the mobile ones is to pass the ball to the other three attackers in the team, for the walkers are unable to score.

Beat us

I should explain that members of the Family walk rather than run in the game; we are limited in our handicaps and this makes it fair, since nobody has an advantage. When we first started we played the students of Newlands Park Teacher Training College nearly every week for about

three months; I am sorry to say that they beat us nearly every time.

I remember how the Family got fed up, and the players were frustrated with the outcome of the matches. It resulted in some slackness in the team. It was not surprising as the game is very strenuous sometimes and makes one want to give up completely.

Benefit

The way I look at it now is that we are able to take part in a worthwhile thing. It makes you feel that you are a part of a team and that you are working for something which the Family will benefit from socially as a whole.

If I may speak personally (for a moment), it has helped me considerably to forget my handicap, and I know that it has done the same for the others. I have also found that my physical condition has improved as the season has progressed; this too has been true

for the others. There have been times when I have completely forgotten my handicap and have been as steady as a rock. We have had exciting moments as well as anxious ones.

I remember very distinctly that Newland Park beat us 8-0 in one of our first games. It got very emotional, especially for the Ponds players. I am glad to say that we are now a lot better and win almost all our matches. I think that this season we have won nine out of ten matches. This may be because we have played teams that we have never played before, such as Dr. Challoner's School, Wooburn Green, and a few youth clubs.

Close match

We played Watford F.C. on one occasion and beat them by about eight goals to six. It was a very close and sporting match. Some of the Watford players were professional, and after the match we chatted to them over tea in the sitting room. We had a large number

of spectators for once, as we advertised in the village (Seer Green). By the time this is printed we shall have played Crystal Palace. I don't know what the outcome of this match will be, but we are looking forward to another contest against outsiders.

Opportunity

This is a good opportunity to thank everyone who has taken part and has helped to brighten up our Sunday afternoons and to entertain the more handicapped members of the Family who cannot go out alone.

I would especially like to thank members of Newland Park College who have helped us very much to improve our play. We have played them on their ground on two occasions, and I think I can speak for the rest of the team and for the Sports Club when I say that we all look forward to more matches against them, and against any others who care to play against us.

Attentive delegates



Delegates to the Extraordinary General Meeting listen attentively as one of the speakers propounds his view.

AIDS AND APPLIANCES

Keeping baby's plate steady

FROM N.E. REGION, Mr. Frank Wootan sends his photographs of a "simple gadget to assist small children to eat their meals." He has sent it in case this is of interest to the mothers of spastic children who have difficulty in anchoring the children's plates. (Pictures, right).

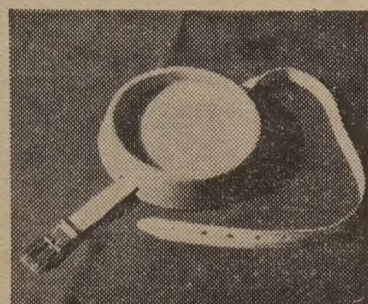
Reading from a roll machine

MR. PETTICAN of Craig-y-parc has sent in his solution to the ever present problem of pro-

ducing reading matter in a form that can be directed by a handicapped person. The girl in the photograph regulates the roll with her foot. The disadvantage of this method is that all the reading material has to be mounted on the rollers. This child is reading the Merchant

by

N. D. B. Elwes



of Venice, and for books like this that will be read over and over again, it might be worth mounting in this way. (Picture, left).

There are many forms of reading devices for the handicapped, some of which I have already given details in Spastic News. Any enquiries should be sent to the Information Clerk, Aids and Appliances, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1.

Can't bend — but the garden gets done

READERS WILL REMEMBER MISS MOLLY SABEL'S interesting article on gardening for the disabled in the April issue of "Spastics News." Now a little book has been published which usefully complements her ideas and carries them much further forward. ("GARDENING FOR THE ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED" by Leslie Snook, PANPIPER 'Small garden' series, illustrated, 5/-).

Mr. Leslie Snook had always been a keen gardener, but when he found infirmity had—as he puts it—"crept up on him in carpet-slippers"—he set about studying how to cultivate his garden without needing to bend.

Indispensable

This easy-to-read guide is the result, and an indispensable aid to everyone with the same ambition. Humorously and knowledgeably he discourses on such subjects as choice of tools (a wide range here), nature of soils, easy digging and easy weeding, stocking the garden, etc.

There is a section of very clear photographs of Mr. Snook carrying out various operations and many line drawings illustrating the text.

Practical

The author is a regular contributor to the gardening press, so his advice is all good practical stuff, quite apart from the ingenious ways he describes of getting round the difficulties of disablement.

Can be heartily recommended.

TAXI FIRM FLEET ON DAY TRIP

THE TAXI FIRM of Mr. Tom Elliott, of Leicester, recently shut down for a day while the entire fleet of seven cars and a mini-coach went on an outing to Skegness.

The trippers were forty mentally handicapped, spastic and polio children from the Leicester area.

At the same time the taxi-drivers' wives went along to help the children during their day at the seaside.

Mr. Elliott said, "I would like to make this an annual event. This year it is being done in a small way. Next year, perhaps, we could have a big coach."

A HOME FROM HOME — LESS THOSE AWFUL CHORES

IF YOU HAVEN'T SPENT A holiday at the Arundel Hotel, Westcliff-on-Sea, you haven't lived!

In future, when we want to get out of the decorator's way (or anybody else for that matter!) for a week or so, 23 The Leas, Westcliff, is where we'll make for. Mrs. Scott, the Manageress, and her staff are really wonderful and create an atmosphere of home from home, less the chores!

The Arundel is chiefly, a Spastics Hotel, but of course in less busy times we M.S.'ers are equally welcome. The fees are 10 guineas per week, but we in this area save on fares. We

took 25 minutes by car. Apart from the cook being only 22 and always Mini-clad, her cooking is superb!

An extract from the M.S. Bulletin Hornchurch, Essex

On warm days, just to sit on their front patio overlooking

the seafront and waving to the passers-by, often in wheelchairs, or just relaxing in pleasant company is all WE needed... or stay in the large comfy lounge, very lavishly centrally heated.

One slight drawback... owing to the usual staff shortage problem, the Arundel has only one male and one female House Parent... Jack and Eve. So if we can help ourselves so much the better. By the way, it's Christian names all round, even dishing up our din-dins.

All year

They are open all the year round, so we're thinking of going for Christmas, if Mrs. Scott has any vacancies for non-spastics. They have lots of fun apparently. We spend 10 gns. at home and then have to do our own cooking!

The Arundel, unfortunately (for us), has only nine bedrooms, otherwise we could all go together! As a matter of interest, the hotel comprises two floors only, with a self operating lift.

Considerate

Another home comfort I liked... the Arundel boasts its own laundry room and lovely fresh towels put in our rooms every day, and so any "small" one gathers "accidentally" can be easily remedied. Altogether, we were made to feel thoroughly at home, and Mrs. Scott was most considerate to my husband who was disabled at Dunkirk.

Plan for night relief

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT Spastics Society are planning bigger and more up-to-date premises so they can raise the age group of the children in their care and perhaps offer a night relief scheme for child and adult spastics.

This was announced at the Group's annual meeting by the Chairman, Mr. David Barker. But Mr. Barker warned that a major fund-raising campaign would be needed before the new centre became a reality.

At present the Group has borrowed premises where it runs a day centre for 12 children aged between two and five.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

There seems to be a steady increase in the number of spastics obtaining jobs in open industry. Here is a selection of some of the recent notifications.

ANDREW ARMSTRONG from Gatley who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre will commence work for the North Western Gas Board, Altrincham, in August.

MALCOLM BOTTOMLEY from Manchester who trained at Sherrards is now working at Remploy in Denton.

RICHARD BENTLEY from Manchester who trained at Sherrards has recently commenced as a capstan lathe operator at the Letchworth Government Training Centre.

MARGARET CHAMBERLAIN from Evesham who trained at Sherrards is employed as an assembly operator by Dowty Seals Ltd., Tewkesbury.

JOHN CHESSMAN from Carlsholton who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre is working as a clerical assistant for the Regional Hospital Board.

ELIZABETH COUVE from Acton has changed her job and is now working as a general finisher for Elizabeth Arden Ltd.

CAROLE CUNNINGHAM from Rochdale who trained at the Society's Office Training Centre is now employed as a cashier in Woolworths.

JEAN DAVY from Moston who recently completed a course of Further Education at Dene Park is now doing part-time typing for the W.V.S. office at Newton Heath.

BARRY DONLON from Glossop who trained at Sherrards is now working at Remploy in Denton.

STUART FISHER from Manchester has a new job and is working as a moulder for Ward & Goldstone Ltd. of Leigh.

JOHN GARROD from Moxborough who trained at Sherrards and was later at the Society's Meadow Works in Birmingham now has a job with Champion Scissors.

STEPHEN GOLDSMITH from Cobham changed his job and has been working as a junior clerk for a firm of accountants in Kingston since March.

JANE HUNT from Hampstead is working at the Manor House Hospital, Golders Green.

JOHN IRVING from Liverpool has changed his job and is now working at night for the Metal Box Co.

CHARLES MCGARRITY from London is employed as a lift attendant by the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works.

ANN McNAMARA from Perivale is working as a sales assistant in a local shop.

EDWARD NAYLER from Wandsworth has changed his job and is now employed on silk screen printing by Diana Displays Ltd. of Parsons Green.

Bouquet girl engaged...



Christine Mattingley and Stephen McKenzie, two residents from Merlyn House Hostel, Southampton, who have recently become engaged. Just after this photograph was taken, Christine presented bouquets to the official lady guests at the opening of the Bonhomie Holiday Centre for the Disabled at Buresdon. The opening ceremony was performed by the popular entertainers, Elsie and Doris Waters.

Wilfred Pickles and his wife Mabel recently visited the Norwich Spastics Workshop to receive an electric saw on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association from the villagers of Southrepps.

Southrepps raised more than £200 to buy the piece of machinery in memory of 20-year-old Brian Bennett, who died in a road accident last year. From childhood Mr. Bennett was an ardent collector for spastics funds.

In the picture, Brian's father, Mr. Len Bennett, presents the Southrepps cheque to Wilfred and Mabel Pickles. The new saw is in the foreground.

(Photo: Eastern Daily Press).

David Jacobs for Croydon

Radio and TV personality David Jacobs made a personal appearance at the Croydon and District Spastics Society's annual show and gymkhana on Sunday, June 23. Proceeds from the show will go towards providing facilities for spastics in the Croydon area.

WALLINGFORD COURSES

THIS LIST OF COURSES run by the Spastics Society at its Staff Training College, Castle Priory, Wallingford, Berks., will give a good idea of the broad spectrum of studies carried out during the week-end conferences: Teachers, Welfare Workers, Psychologists, Therapists and care staff, all are catered for.

The series will of course continue in 1969, and next year's programme will be published in due course.

All applications to participate in these events should be addressed to the Principal and Director of Studies, Mrs. J. W. Knowles, B.A. 16th-20th September, 1968. Junior care staff in schools, day centres and short stay establishments.

23rd-25th September, 1968. Welfare Officers in Local Authority, Health and Welfare Departments.

30th September-4th October, 1968. Teachers' Workshop (Liberal Studies).

9th-11th October, 1968. Educational and Clinical Psychologists.

21st-24th October, 1968. Teachers of the partially-sighted child.

11th-14th November, 1968. Newly appointed Teachers and Therapists.

15th-17th November, 1968. Staff relationships in schools.

22nd-24th November, 1968. Voluntary Welfare Workers.

25th-27th November, 1968. Leaders and Workers in Pre-School Play-Groups of Physically and Mentally Handicapped.

29th November-1st December, 1968. Occupational Therapists in P.H. Schools, Children's Hospitals and School Health Services.

5th-8th December, 1968. Workshop for Unqualified Teachers of the S.S.N. with additional handicaps.

COME TO LONDON

Thursday 22nd - Sunday 25th August

Spend a long holiday weekend at the FitzRoy Square Centre. A full programme of outings and visits to places of interest will be arranged.

It is hoped to keep the cost (covering accommodation, all meals and outings) to approximately £7 per person. Applications are invited from any interested person aged 18 and over. Those in wheelchairs can be considered, but anyone needing personal help must be accompanied.

Please apply to: Mrs. W. R. Greenwood (Holiday Organiser, 16/18 FitzRoy Square, London, W.1. Closing date for applications: Friday, 12th July, 1968.

NEWS FROM ASIA

The Journal of Rehabilitation in Asia.

Founder and Editor-in-Chief: Mrs. V. Kamala Nimbkar, O.T.R. Managing Editor: Mr. Sharad D. Gokhale.

THIS QUARTERLY magazine was founded by Mrs. Nimbkar in 1959 to form a link between rehabilitation workers in Asia and elsewhere, and be a source of information. Subjects covered include — apart from those to do with orthopaedic handicaps — blindness, mental retardation, deafness and leprosy.

It is essential reading for news of developments in Asia. Sponsored by the Nimbkar Rehabilitation Trust, it is published in the first week of January, April, July and October. Yearly Subscriptions cost: 1968 U.S. \$2.50, 1969 U.S. \$3.00 or equivalent currency.

Address:—

The Amerind, 15th Road, Khar, BOMBAY, 52, India.

AMBULANCE FOR SALE

A 1962 Austin Ambulance, 14-seater, tip-up seats or six wheelchairs. Electric hydraulic chair ramp. Price £350.

Apply to:—

Mrs. E. Dixon, Hon. Sec., Crewe and District Spastics Society, 149 Richmond Road, Crewe.

Picturama



Having fun in the bathing-pool, which is built under cover in the grounds of Colwall Court. Swimming is an ideal recreation for spastics as the water helps tense muscles to relax.



A view of the sun-lounge at Colwall Court. The little girl on the right had never been away from home alone before, but she soon settled down happily. The other holidaymakers in the picture are a party of children with their housemother from Meldreth.

GREAT FUN — EVEN WHEN IT'S RAINING AT COLWALL . . .



Our picture on the left shows a view of the entrance to Colwall Court Holiday Hotel, and the mini-bus and hydraulic truck which is used to take the children down to the beach. The open-air life is great fun at this S.O.S. - sponsored hotel. And even when it's raining there's plenty to do, as the pictures on the far left show. Anne Plummer's story on Colwall is on Page nine.

Carriages in Cadiz and a Madeira sledge — what

a cruise!

YOU CAN HELP BUILD UP

SPASTICS NEWS

CIRCULATION

Get your friends, relations to subscribe...
Buy a year's subscription for a Spastic...
Persuade "Spastic Pool" members to subscribe...
Bring in advertising...

**CIRCULATION UP TO 70,000
PRICE DOWN TO 9d.**

(including postage)

By changing the NEWS from a magazine to a newspaper, costs have been cut nearly 20%

THIS BENEFIT IS BEING PASSED ON TO READERS

Circulation has jumped from 11,000 to 70,000 and is climbing steadily.

TARGET: 100,000 IN 6 MONTHS

You can help to reach this circulation where advertising will make the NEWS a big income earner for Spastics.

CUT OUT AND SEND THIS FORM

I want to help build the SPASTICS NEWS circulation. Please send until further notice, to the name and address below, the NEW lively SPASTICS NEWS each month at the annual subscription rate of 9/- including postage, starting with the..... issue.

I enclose a cheque/postal order for 9/-.

Name and Address
(Block capitals please)

Send to:
Editor, Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1.

Published by The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W1. Printed by Bristol United Press Ltd., Silver Street, Bristol, 1. In association with Godfrey Lang Ltd., Cliftons Inn, London, E.C.4.

I HAVE JUST ACHIEVED a life's ambition, by going on a cruise on the S.S. Uganda of the Indian Line. It all seemed like a dream, for on board it's like being in another world—except when it was rough. I think most of us wished we could step onto dry land for a while, but when we were able to go ashore into a foreign country which was very different from our own, one soon forgot the tossing about we'd had at sea.

Our first port of call was Cadiz, which is a small town with very narrow streets, the Arab quarters in the old part of the town reminded one of

—by
**Stanley
Shilwell**

stories and pictures from the Bible. We found that the best way of seeing Cadiz was by horse-drawn open carriages which took us up the very narrow street. When one looks up you can see all kinds of plants growing on the balconies. It made a very pleasant morning's drive for one could see

such a lot more than you would from a car or coach.

Our next stop was Casablanca, which we were told is the largest port in Europe. We had a very interesting tour of the town, and its suburbs, where there were some very nice houses and gardens where the wealthy business people live. We also saw some very pretty beaches, but as they are not safe to bathe or swim from they use swimming pools. We saw 15 of them all in a row, some of them looked very attractive and inviting, but we couldn't sample any of them as we wanted to see as much as we could in the short time we had before cruising on to Madeira.

We had two whole days there



Marcia Vanner and Helen Keenery joined in the folk dancing at Madeira with a great deal of gusto!



It was certainly most interesting to be allowed on the bridge of the S.S. Uganda—and that's when this picture was taken.

and I think a lot of us would have liked a lot longer. We had a coach trip up into the mountains to one of the highest points on the Island, from which we couldn't see very much as we were up in the clouds, but we had some lovely views from our coach on the way there.

It was interesting to see how they cultivated every bit of land, sometimes only a few yards square and high up on the steep mountain-sides. They build walls a few feet high which gives them a small flat area in which they plant Banana trees or Maize. Our second tour out of Funchal, which is the capital of Madeira, took us once again up into the hills, but this time we came back down the steep cobbled road in a basket on a sledge with a man each side with a rope to hold it back on the

very steep parts and guide it around the sharp bends. Three of us were able to go down at a time on one sledge, I think we all enjoyed it very much and found it most exciting and exhilarating, I know that I did. It was one of the highlights of my holiday.

After two short days we were at sea again, being waited upon and looked after like Lords and Ladies with marvellous food of every kind you can think of, and of course entertainment from Bingo to Horse-Racing, and Music for dancing. After two days of cruising we found ourselves in Corunna for 18 hours.

Well, now, none of this would have been possible for any of us without the very hard work of our Bill Hargreaves, his son Brian, and his two very nice young lady assistants, Wendy and Gloria,